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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****WHITAKER CENTER TO HOUSE NEW STUDENT CENTER FOR HARRISBURG UNIVERSITY**

HARRISBURG (Jan. 22) – Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts announced today it will lease a portion of its space to Harrisburg University for Science and Technology for its new student center.

This agreement is an exciting next step for Whitaker Center as it continues to reimagine the possibilities of bringing the fullness of its mission to life in downtown Harrisburg. The many benefits of this partnership are significant for the region, Whitaker Center and Harrisburg University, as both organizations expand on the educational, cultural and community opportunities available in downtown Harrisburg.

“For 20 years, Whitaker Center has been a cultural resource for the Harrisburg region, and collaborating with Harrisburg University builds on our core mission as a community hub for learning and creativity,” said Ted Black, CEO for Whitaker Center. “This lease arrangement gives us an opportunity to attract the next generation of young professionals who will help shape the community, giving these young minds a first-hand understanding of the critical role the center plays in our community’s cultural enrichment.”

Eric Darr, Harrisburg University’s President, also sees great value in locating such a space for the university’s students within the walls of Whitaker Center’s Harsco Science Center. “Harrisburg University for Science and Technology is growing rapidly, having already established itself both locally and internationally as a first class STEM University. It is only fitting that we would partner with Whitaker Center to provide our students with first class space in an outstanding STEM setting for them to gather and further their learning.”

The lease, which begins Feb. 1, involves 7,000 square feet, or about 5 percent of Whitaker Center’s nearly 130,000 square feet of space. The student center will occupy the Arcade Level (top floor) of the Harsco Science Center. Current exhibits will be re-homed throughout the science center with additional plans to more effectively use the existing space. The student center will open following renovations that will be funded by Harrisburg University.

**About Whitaker Center**

Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts is a non-profit center for the arts, education, entertainment and cultural enrichment located in the heart of Harrisburg’s vibrant downtown. Whitaker Center is home to Sunoco Performance Theater, Harsco Science Center and Select Medical Digital Cinema featuring a four story premium giant screen theater with a recently upgraded 4K digital projection system. Visit [whitakercenter.org](http://whitakercenter.org) for a full list of events, shows, hours of operation and ticket rates.

## About Harrisburg University

Accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, Harrisburg University is a private non-profit university offering bachelor and graduate degree programs in science, technology, and math fields to a diverse student body. For more information on the University's affordable demand-driven undergraduate and graduate programs, call 717.901.5146 or email, [Connect@HarrisburgU.edu](mailto:Connect@HarrisburgU.edu)

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