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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Whitaker Center Names Ted Black as President and CEO**

Former NHL franchise president brings 25+ years of business, marketing, legal and operations leadership experience for high-profile venues

Harrisburg, Pa. – Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts today announced Ted Black, previously president of the Buffalo Sabres NHL hockey franchise, as its new president and CEO, effective March 2. Dr. Michael Hanes is retiring from his role as President and CEO of Whitaker Center after serving in that capacity for the last ten years.

Black comes to Whitaker Center from Pittsburgh, where he recently served as a business advisor and consultant to clients in the sports and media industries. He brings more than 25 years of business, marketing and operations leadership experience to his new role, having served as president of the Sabres and vice president of business and legal affairs for the Pittsburgh Penguins.

“We are thrilled to have an executive of Ted Black’s caliber take the helm of Whitaker Center,” said Terry Lehman, chairman of Whitaker Center’s board of directors. “Ted is a proven business leader who has achieved success for high-profile venues including the homes of the Sabres and Penguins hockey franchises. We are confident that his extensive experience, along with his emphasis on teamwork and innovation, will propel Whitaker Center forward as the region’s premier science and arts destination.”

During his tenure with the Pittsburgh Penguins, Black was a member of the core management team hired by NHL legend Mario Lemieux. Black was then recruited to lead one of the most successful regional sports networks in the country, FSN Pittsburgh. Now known as ROOT Sports Pittsburgh, the network is the television rights holder to the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Pittsburgh Penguins.

“Whitaker Center is a first-class venue with such incredible cultural, educational and entertainment offerings,” Black said. “I am honored to now be part of this regional jewel that enriches so many lives in Harrisburg and beyond. I look forward to building on the strong foundation that Dr. Hanes has worked so hard to create, and elevating Whitaker Center’s programs and initiatives to even greater heights.”

Under Dr. Hanes’ leadership during the last 10 years, Whitaker Center has provided outstanding programs in the arts and sciences including: *Surgery Live!*, one of only four programs in the country that allows high school students to participate in real-time surgical procedures through high-definition videoconferencing; and *Expedition Chesapeake*, an initiative that has trained 450 high school teachers in six states in the use of watershed education materials developed at Whitaker Center. Additionally, collaborations with private foundations, corporate and individual donors, resident companies, higher education institutions, community arts organizations, and federal and state agencies have expanded. For his incredible contributions, Dr. Hanes was named president emeritus of Whitaker Center and will continue to serve as president and CEO of Whitaker Center Productions while working on *Expedition Chesapeake* until his full retirement in January 2018.



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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 for a full list of events, shows, hours of operation and ticket rates.

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