



Introducing Quest: A new name and approach takes science learning to another level

Question everything — after all that’s what science is all about. That invitation will be put to visitors of all ages when [Quest](#) — a new approach to science and technology centers — officially opens its doors in Stockmen’s Park in downtown Livermore in 2023.

While the organization behind the idea, the Livermore Science and Society Center (LSSC), has been working on the plans and framework for a new science center in Stockmen’s Park/ downtown Livermore for more than two years, its new name – Quest – and logo more accurately describe the anticipated journey of scientific discovery and exploration. The 501c3 nonprofit is a collective of retirees from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories-California, as well as local community leaders and educators, all dedicated to bringing a science and technology center to the Tri-Valley.

The new name represents a journey – where everyone is encouraged to “question,” “understand” and “explore” science and technology — hence the name Quest — through a variety of planned hands-on exhibits and immersive and interactive experiences, all designed to enrich and excite.

The Quest logo evokes the strong images and colors of California – a pinnacle of a mountain, symbolizing a journey and challenge. Familiar shapes, which are just as meaningful to young children as they are to students of geometry, serve as branding and anchoring images of discovery.

Quest intends to break ground on its future home in 2022, with the opening of an 18,000-square-foot center featuring exhibits and classroom/lecture space in Stockmen’s Park in 2023. In 2020, Quest will kick off its official campaign to raise the \$15 million needed to build the center.

In the meantime, Quest board members are not letting the lack of a permanent location keep them from igniting a love of learning and a passion for science. In 2019 more than 3,000 local residents had fun learning about water and wind through traveling hands-on activities, including the Science Odyssey in February and Innovation Fair in May. Additional pop-up experiments will be held throughout the next year with a special focus on climate for the 50th anniversary of Earth Day in April 2020.

Science Center 2.0

Whether within the confines of its own center or out on the road, Quest will provide experiential learning opportunities for exploration, discovery and learning for everyone at any age — from families focused on learning together, to students looking to hone and apply their STEM skills, to adults interested in attending a lecture, mentoring a young mind or sharpening their ability to problem solve. It is learning by doing rather than reading, with a goal of deepening understanding of how science applies to everyday life.

“We want science to be accessible and approachable and to show how it impacts the way we learn, work and live in our ever-changing world,” said Alan Burnham, Quest founder and CFO. “We also want to spark interest in working in science and technology fields by collaborating with local education partners as well as Tri-Valley companies that are leaders in STEM fields.”

Burnham kicked off the effort to open the center back in 2017, enlisting the help of fellow Lawrence Livermore National Lab colleagues Monya Lane and Vaughn Draggoo as well as David Kent, a board member of Tri-Valley Conservancy and former chair of the Livermore Chamber of Commerce. When the city of Livermore announced efforts to redevelop the downtown area — including a mix of restaurants, shops, exhibit spaces, a theater, hotel and a park — the group felt a science center was a natural addition. Jay Davis and Rick Stulen — also longtime residents of Livermore and active in community and education outreach — joined the effort.

Located in Stockmen’s Park, a parcel of land in the heart of downtown, Quest will be part of an overall effort by Livermore leaders to acknowledge the city’s rich heritage of agriculture — including ranching and winemaking — arts and science. No other city in the United States is home to two national laboratories, and it has been a long practice of Lawrence Livermore and Sandia employees to seek opportunities to “pay it forward” in hopes of sparking the same zeal for science, engineering and technology that once inspired them.

“Our approach ensures that anyone — regardless of their age, education or knowledge of science fundamentals — can explore and learn at a level that’s right for them,” said Monya Lane, Quest president and CEO. “They can go as far as their curiosity or interests take them — all the way to technical explanations or practical applications.”

Generous donations and grants continue to be a catalyst for Quest program development and outreach. This year, the organization was one of the five beneficiaries at the annual Livermore Valley Wine Auction. An active capital campaign to build the Quest Science Center in Stockmen’s Park will soon be in full swing. Contributions are tax deductible as Quest is an IRS authorized 501c3 nonprofit (82-4865787). For more information, to donate or to volunteer and assist with Quest, visit quest-science.org or call 925 292-8099

- END -

