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May 29, 2015

Dr. Bill Petit  
Petit Family Foundation  
P.O. Box 310  
Plainville, CT 06062-0310

Dear Dr. Petit:

I am pleased to reach out to you and the committee with this interim report on the status of our awarded 2014 grant, which will bring the Women in Science program to Mystic Aquarium.

This program is two-fold, the first initiative will be a Women in Science Celebration Event to be held here at Mystic Aquarium. This day-long event will take place on August 12, 2015 and has the potential to reach more than 3,700 visitors. The event will feature a variety of demonstrations, stations, activities, and talks by women in STEM. The goal of the Women in Science program is to raise awareness of, knowledge about, and appreciation for women in the sciences among a broad audience. To accomplish this, we will draw on our own veterinary, research, animal care, and water quality staffs (73% female), as well as local female scientists from local universities and other organizations, to host tables, guide activities, and deliver talks. Emphasis will be placed on each participating scientist's work, and the pathway she took to reach her career.

The Women in Science event will also leverage a partnership with Safe Futures, a non-profit organization that provides emergency and transitional housing for families working to rebuild lives shattered by domestic violence or sexual assault. Mystic Aquarium has an excellent relationship with Safe Futures and we are excited to provide these families with the opportunity to attend this Women in Science Celebration. We also have a relationship with the naval submarine base in New London, which has an active program to assist families with deployed members, and we are reaching out to include them as well. Through this grant, we propose to host up to 60 women and children from these organizations by sponsoring the transportation fees and providing complimentary admission.

Mystic Aquarium would like to work with the Petit Family Foundation to reach out to other organizations with similar missions to include them in this event. If there are any organizations whose members you believe would benefit from attending, please forward their contact information and I will be sure to send an invitation.

I also wish to welcome you, Dr. Petit, and any member of your family or Foundation committee to attend. We are excited to bring awareness of women in the science field and hope this is the beginning of an annual tradition here at Mystic Aquarium.

I will be in touch with you again this fall, as we prepare for the Women in Science Speaker Series, the second initiative in the grant. The Speaker Series will provide students in area schools with the opportunity to meet and engage with a diverse group of local female STEM scientists and professionals, and give students an understanding of the many pathways towards STEM careers. We have partnered with six schools across the state of Connecticut for this Speaker Series, and I will update you as we work with each school to confirm all of the dates and times.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or for additional information. I look forward to working with your Foundation, and I hope that we may have the opportunity to meet at one of these events.

Sincerely,



Kelly E. Matis  
Vice President of Education & Conservation  
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