

# Welcome!

## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR



***“The first time I felt the excitement from a child experiencing hands-on science, I knew there was no turning back”.***

For many kids, the programs offered through the Science Education Center is their first time experiencing science in a vibrant, hands-on way—and that can be transformative. That’s what happened to me. In 2002, I joined the Science Education Center as an Outreach Volunteer while serving as a chemistry professor for Georgia College, and never left.

For the past seven years, I have had the honor of being the Director for the Science Education Center. In the Center, we collaborate with organizations at Georgia College and beyond the campus to offer courses, teacher professional development institutes, curriculum development, research experiences, scientific competitions, camps, and community events. Programs that provide students, teachers, and the community opportunities to examine the role of science in life, in education, and in the economy.

A highlight of our hands-on approach is that we allow participants to develop foundational knowledge while using tools and materials to ask their own questions and discover their own answers. The center’s methodology helps the program participants approach the world with confidence in their ability to investigate, explore, and discover until they find a solution. This approach helps people make sense of the world on their own terms in a relatable, real-world manner.

My goal is that participants of all ages who come through the Center’s programs experience the same spark of discovery I felt in my early years. Our hands-on approach is just one of the ways the Center works to ignite curiosity and help people understand the world around them.

I hope you’ll feel inspired reading about the Center’s programs of exploration displayed on our website. Perhaps you’ll be motivated to join me at one of the Center’s events to awaken your own curiosity and love of science.

I can’t wait to stimulate curiosity and inspire science learning with you!

Handwritten signature of Catrena H. Lisse

Catrena Higginbotham-Lisse, Ph.D.  
Science Education Center, Director  
Professor of Chemistry