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Penn Dixie Fossil Park Receives Community Impact Grant from New York Life

Penn Dixie Fossil Park & Nature Reserve announced that it was awarded a \$10,000 Community Impact Grant from New York Life to further its mission of hands-on science education.

The grant will support the program Dig into Virtual STEM, a distance-learning initiative that will increase the accessibility of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education to students in local school districts. Students will learn about fossils and the geologic history of Earth with a focus on Western New York using educational fossil kits and virtual field trips.

“I’m proud to work for a company that encourages its agents to devote their time, energy, and talents to support the needs and priorities of their local community,” said Jim Eiseman, agent with New York Life’s Buffalo General Office and former Penn Dixie Board member. “We are pleased that our partnership will have a long-lasting impact on Penn Dixie and the population they serve”

“We’re thankful and encouraged to be able to continue to develop a new suite of virtual programs made possible by the funding from New York Life,” said Penn Dixie Director of Science Catherine Konieczny. “Broadening our offerings, especially during this time, will ensure Penn Dixie’s continued success through dynamic programs for another 25 years and beyond.”

The Community Impact Grant program awards grants of up to \$25,000 to local nonprofit organizations, which are championed by New York Life agents and employees. Since the program’s inception in 2008, more than 600 grants totaling nearly \$8 million have been awarded to nonprofits across the country.

Penn Dixie is ranked as the number one fossil park in the United States and welcomes science enthusiasts from around the globe to uncover trilobites, brachiopods, crinoids, and corals that lived in a shallow ocean 380 million years ago.