



NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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NASA Astronaut Tracy E. Caldwell to speak at El Camino College Space Science Day 2008

NASA Astronaut Tracy E. Caldwell will be the featured speaker at El Camino College's Space Science Day 2008 on April 19. This annual event is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 19 and designed for South Bay youngsters to explore the science of outer space. It is free and open to serious-minded science students in grades five through 12.

Sponsored by El Camino College and American Honda Motor Co., Inc., and coordinated by the El Camino College Astronaut Ellison Onizuka Memorial Committee, the event is dedicated to Ellison Onizuka, a Space Shuttle *Challenger* astronaut who perished along with the six other crew members during the tragic events of 1986.

Astronaut Caldwell will address the students, offering insights about her educational and career path as well as details about her work with the space program.

Caldwell is a NASA mission specialist who has logged more than 305 hours in space after completing her first space flight in 2007. That mission marked Endeavour's 20th flight, one where the crew successfully added another truss segment, a new gyroscope and external spare parts platform to the International Space Station (ISS).

Selected by NASA in June 1998, Caldwell was first assigned to the Astronaut Office ISS Operations Branch as a Russian Crusader, participating in the testing and integration of Russian hardware and software products developed for ISS. She went on to crew support then transitioned to the Astronaut Shuttle Operations Branch where she was assigned to flight software verification in the Shuttle Avionics Integration Laboratory (SAIL). She also worked supporting launch and landing operations at Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Caldwell received a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from California State University, Fullerton in 1993 and a doctorate in physical chemistry from the University of California at Davis in 1997.

After Caldwell's presentation, students at Space Science Day will join classroom presentations and demonstrations led by El Camino College professors, Science FEST students, and guests from JPL and other institutions.

Students will participate in a variety of hands-on science activities and experiments, including the traditional Egg Drop Competition, where students attempt to build the perfect apparatus that will let an egg drop from a rooftop without breaking when it lands.

Reservations are required for the free science event. For more information, call 310-660-3487 or contact SpaceDay@elcamino.edu.

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