



NEWS

El Camino College | Public Relations & Marketing Department
16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA 90506
Contact: Ann M. Garten, Director, Community Relations
Telephone: (310) 660-3406 | E-Mail: agarten@elcamino.edu

For Immediate Release

April 6, 2009

El Camino College to Present Space Science Day 2009

South Bay youngsters are invited to attend El Camino College's Space Science Day 2009, scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 25 at the college's planetarium and science classrooms, 16007 Crenshaw Boulevard, near Torrance.

The daylong event is sponsored by El Camino College and American Honda Motor Co., Inc., and coordinated by the El Camino College Astronaut Ellison Onizuka Memorial Committee. It is free and open to serious-minded science students in grades five through 12.

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.

"We welcome all future scientists to this annual event that honors an outstanding astronaut and scientist," said El Camino College President Thomas M. Fallo. "At Space Science Day, young people are able to take a hands-on approach to science in an exciting college environment."

JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency) Astronaut Naoko Yamazaki will address the students, offering insights about her educational and career paths as well as details about her work with the space program.

Yamazaki arrived at the Johnson Space Center in June 2004. In February 2006 she completed Astronaut Candidate Training and initially served in the Astronaut Office Robotics Branch; she is now assigned to the crew of STS-131, set for launch in February 2010.

Astronaut Yamazaki joined the National Space Development Agency of Japan (NASDA) in 1996 and was involved in the Japanese Experiment Module (JEM) system integration; from June 1998 to March 2000, she was involved in the development of the ISS Centrifuge (life science experiment facility) and worked with the Centrifuge Project Team.

In February 1999, Yamazaki was selected by NASDA (currently JAXA) as one of three Japanese astronaut candidates for the International Space Station (ISS). In May 2004, she completed Soyuz-TMA Flight Engineer-1 training at the Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center (GCTC), Star City, Russia.

Yamazaki graduated from Ochanomizu University Senior High School; and received bachelor's and master's degrees in aerospace engineering from the University of Tokyo.

After the astronaut presentation, Space Science Day students will enjoy 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.

#