



NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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El Camino College to Present Space Science Day 2012; NASA Astronaut and ECC Alumnus Mike Fincke is Guest Speaker

NASA Astronaut and El Camino College alumnus Edward Michael "Mike" Fincke will be the guest speaker at the college's annual Space Science Day 2012.

Serious-minded science students in grades five through 12 are invited to attend this **free** event, scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 21 at the college's planetarium and science classrooms, 16007 Crenshaw Boulevard, near Torrance.

"We welcome all future scientists to this annual event that honors an outstanding astronaut and scientist," said El Camino College President Thomas M. Fallo. "We hope young people are inspired by this opportunity to learn about science and space."

This past spring, Astronaut Fincke served as mission specialist on the final flight of Space Shuttle Endeavour. He has a total of 381 days, 15 hours and 11 minutes in orbit and has logged 48 hours and 37 minutes of extra-vehicular activity time on nine spacewalks.

After graduating from MIT in 1989, Fincke immediately attended a summer exchange program with the Moscow Aviation Institute in the former Soviet Union, where he studied cosmonautics.

Fincke then earned a master's degree in aeronautics and astronautics from Stanford University in 1990. After graduation, he entered the United States Air Force where he was assigned to the Air Force Space and Missiles Systems Center at Los Angeles Air Force Base in El Segundo. There he served as a space systems engineer and a space test engineer.

While stationed at the Los Angeles Air Force Base, Fincke attended El Camino College and was awarded an associate degree in earth sciences (geology) in 1993. He then earned a second master's degree in physical sciences (planetary geology) from the University of Houston - Clear Lake in 2001. Fincke was selected by NASA in April 1996 and assigned as a NASA Space Station Science Officer and Flight Engineer.

Students attending Space Science Day will have the opportunity to listen to Astronaut Fincke's presentation, and will also participate in classroom workshops and demonstrations led by El Camino College professors, students, and guests from JPL and other institutions. Students will also try 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.

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. As a new addition this year, select workshops will be available in Spanish.

To register, contact SpaceDay@elcamino.edu; for more information call 310-660-3487.

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