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For Immediate Release

March 21, 2013

El Camino College to Present Essay Contest and Space Science Day 2013

South Bay students in grades five through 12 are invited to enter El Camino College's annual Onizuka Space Science Day essay contest. The contest winner will receive an invitation to bring three guests to meet and attend the Space Science Day dinner with a NASA astronaut. Entries are due by 10 p.m. April 7.

Students are asked to write 150 words or less on the following essay subject:

While addressing the 1980 graduating class at Konawaena High School in Kona, Hawaii, Ellison Onizuka said, "Your visions are not limited by what your eyes can see but by what your minds can imagine. Make your life count, and the world will be a better place because you tried." How do you plan to make your life count and make the world a better place?

Essays should be sent in the body of an email (no attachments please) to Robin Dreizler c/o SpaceDay@elcamino.edu or fax to 310-660-6786. They can also be mailed to El Camino College, c/o Outreach Office, 16007 Crenshaw Boulevard, Torrance, CA 90506.

El Camino College's Space Science Day 2013 is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 20. Workshops will be in the college's planetarium and science classrooms.

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 six other crew members during the tragic events of 1986. It is free and open to serious-minded science students in grades five through 12.

Space Science Day includes a presentation from a NASA astronaut and classroom activities and demonstrations led by El Camino College professors, 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.

For reservations or more information about the free science event and essay contest, contact 310-660-3487 or SpaceDay@elcamino.edu.