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For Immediate Release

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El Camino College Present Essay Contest and Space Science Day 2014

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. February 25.

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

"What are teachers doing to make math and science classes more interesting? What else would you like to have happen in your math and science classes?"

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. Students should include with the essay, name, age, address, phone number or parent email, grade in school, teacher's name, and school they attend.

El Camino College's Space Science Day 2014 is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 8. 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.