



NEWS

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El Camino College Professor Presents Mars Landing Research to NASA *Findings to be shared in upcoming STEM Speaker Series Discussion*

El Camino College professor Paul Yun is ready to take space exploration to a whole new level – through the stars, past the moon, and on to Mars.

Professor Yun teaches math classes at ECC, while also working with NASA to determine a site for humans to land on Mars, tentatively scheduled in 2035.

As a proposer for NASA's Mars Human Landing Site, his current mission is share the NASA Mars project with the public. He will launch ECC's Spring 2016 STEM Speaker Series by discussing this current Mars venture. Set for 4 p.m. Feb. 3 in the college's Alondra Room, Yun will present "NASA Mars Mission" and explain why he believes the Gale Crater is a good option for a landing site. He will also answer the questions: "Why do we want to go to Mars?" and "Are we ready to go to Mars?"

Yun recently presented his research in Houston at NASA's first Landing Sites/Exploration Zones Workshop for Human Missions to the Surface of Mars. About 175 people from around the world came to Houston for the event, with another 280 connected via the Internet. The goal of the workshop was to collect proposals for locations on Mars that would be of high scientific research value while also providing natural resources to enable human explorers to land, live and work safely on the Red Planet. Yun's winning presentation was part of an international competition that drew hundreds of scientists with plenty of ideas.

As a NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador, Yun regularly encourages college students, as well as young people, to pursue careers in math and science. He has lectured on the topic of Mars on and off campus for several years, including a tour in Korea and at El Camino College's own annual Onizuka Space Science Day.

Yun has been an El Camino College faculty member since 1997. He has master's degrees from Harvard University and UCLA, in addition to a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

For more information on NASA's journey to Mars, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/journeytomars>. For more information on the El Camino College STEM Speaker Series, view: <http://www.elcamino.edu/academics/stem/docs/Yun.pdf>.

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