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For Immediate Release

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El Camino College's Onizuka Space Science Day to Present Student Arts Contest *Students in grades five-12 invited to enter original artwork*

Student-artists are encouraged to enter their original creations in El Camino College's 2017 Onizuka Space Science Day Arts Contest.

The winner will receive an invitation to bring three guests to attend the Onizuka Space Science Day Dinner with NASA astronaut Dr. Kjell N. Lindgren on March 10. Entries are due by 10 p.m. Feb. 28.

Students should create original artwork inspired by the theme "Heroes of the Space Program." Accepted genres of artwork include: drawing, painting, printmaking, computer-generated image, photograph or photographic collage.

Onizuka Space Science Day 2017 runs from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 11 and is open to science-minded students in fifth through 12th grade. The Ellison S. Onizuka Memorial Committee, El Camino College and American Honda Motor Co. Inc. sponsor the free hands-on conference.

The event will feature a presentation from Lindgren, a physician who spent 141 days in orbit aboard the International Space Station and logged 15 hours and four minutes of spacewalk time. Students can also participate in hands-on science activities and experiments, egg drop and paper plane competitions, as well as classroom presentations and demonstrations led by El Camino College professors and guests from other institutions, such as the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena. Lunch is free for the first 900 students.

This year marks the 31st anniversary of the Space Shuttle Challenger accident in which Astronaut Ellison Onizuka perished along with the six other crew members. The annual event was created to honor Onizuka's memory and his dream of inspiring youth to strive for their career goals.

Reservations are required to attend this free event; fill out the Reservation Form at <http://www.elcamino.edu/academics/naturalsciences/onizuka-space-science-day/>. Call 310-660-3487 or email spaceday@elcamino.edu for more information.

To enter the art contest, email a scan or photo of the artwork to spaceday@elcamino.edu or mail to Robin Dreizler c/o Space Science Day Arts Contest, 16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA, 90506. Entries should include the student's name, age, home address, phone number, parent or guardian email, grade in school, teacher's name and current school.

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