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South Bay Students Enjoy Space Science Day at El Camino College

Nearly 1,000 serious-minded science students in grades five through 12 attended Onizuka Space Science Day 2017 at El Camino College on March 11. The day featured dozens of scientific hands-on activities and a presentation from NASA astronaut Dr. Kjell Lindgren.

Lindgren, who spent 141 days in orbit aboard the International Space Station (ISS) and logged 15 hours and four minutes of spacewalk time, began training with NASA in 2009. While on ISS, he and his crewmates took part in more than 100 scientific experiments, including research in human physiology, fluid and combustion physics, Earth and space science and technology development. Research included the ground-breaking “veggie” lettuce experiment – the first time a U.S. crew has eaten a crop grown in orbit.

Among other honors, Lindgren was awarded the 2016 NASA Distinguished Service Medal, 2016 NASA Space Flight Medal, and the 2013 NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal.

Lindgren was born in Taipei, Taiwan and raised in England. He received his bachelor’s degree in biology from the U.S. Air Force Academy and a master’s degree from Colorado State University. He earned a doctorate in medicine from the University of Colorado and is board certified in emergency and aerospace medicine.

At Onizuka Space Science Day, students participated in hands-on science activities and experiments, egg drop and paper airplane competitions, and classroom presentations and demonstrations led by ECC professors and guests from institutions such as Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena.

This year marks the 31st anniversary of the Space Shuttle Challenger accident where Ellison Onizuka perished along with 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. The Ellison S. Onizuka Memorial Committee, El Camino College, and American Honda Motor Co., Inc. sponsor the free hands-on conference each year.

Photos available online:

NASA astronaut Dr. Kjell Lindgren addresses an audience of science-minded youngsters at El Camino College’s Onizuka Space Science Day 2017.

<http://www.elcamino.edu/administration/publicrelations/photos/2017/SpaceScienceDay01.jpg>

Young scientists try out the robotics display set up by El Camino College students and faculty at Onizuka Space Science Day 2017.

<http://www.elcamino.edu/administration/publicrelations/photos/2017/SpaceScienceDay02.jpg>

A highlight of Onizuka Space Science Day 2017 at El Camino College was the egg drop competition.

<http://www.elcamino.edu/administration/publicrelations/photos/2017/SpaceScienceDay03.jpg>

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