



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Judy Iannaccone
Director, Communications
Phone: (714) 480-7503
e-mail: iannaccone_judy@rsccd.edu

November 23, 2009
MEDIA ALERT

Santa Ana College's Tessmann Planetarium Premieres "America in Space" Show on December 1

From Sputnik to Atlantis: How the Space Program Has Improved Our Lives

WHAT

"America in Space" Show

America's space program is both part of our nation's living history and its legacy. With the launch of the Soviet satellite Sputnik in 1957, the U.S. was catapulted into the space race---NASA became operational 51 years ago in 1958 and it hasn't stopped since. Some of us can vividly recall man's first steps on the moon during the renowned Apollo 11 mission. And we tear up when remembering the lives lost---three in Apollo 1 in 1967, seven in the Challenger tragedy in 1986, and seven in the Columbia disaster in 2003.

We've all seen the images of America's space exploration on television and on computer screens, but here is an opportunity to see these images on the Tessmann Planetarium's 30-foot dome. Thanks to the planetarium's new LCD projectors, the images are huge and crisp.

Not only does "America in Space" provide a chronology of the space program, but it also reminds us of the impact this program has had on us. Our lives have been simplified by the advent of cordless power tools, made safer by smoke detectors, made healthier by CATScans, MRIs, digital mammograms, ultrasounds, and laser surgery—all technology made possible through the space program.

WHERE

Tessmann Planetarium

Santa Ana College (SAC)
1530 W. 17th St., Santa Ana, California 92706

WHEN

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

7:00 p.m.

Future shows will be held Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. by reservation only.

WHO

"America in Space" is a collaborative production by Dr. Steve Eastmond, SAC physical science professor, and Bob Menn, Tessmann Planetarium coordinator.

WHY

Since 1966, Santa Ana College's Tessmann Planetarium has opened a window to the solar system and beyond for K-12 students, college students and the community. Last year, more than 19,000 K-12 students visited Orange County's

- m o r e -

2-2-2

only planetarium to view star shows, including “How Rare Is Earth?,” “How Far Is Up?,” and “Where Are You?”

The programming supports community college instruction and serves as a popular field trip destination for elementary science students and special groups such as scouting troupes.

Thanks to a grant of \$748,500 from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and \$251,500 of Measure E general obligation bond funds, a new Goto Chronos star projector and state-of-the-art multimedia equipment were installed in the planetarium in 2003.

HOW Attendance is \$6 and open to the public. For reservations and show schedules, call (714) 564-6356.

About the Rancho Santiago Community College District

The mission of the Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD) is to respond to the educational needs of an ever-changing community and to provide programs and services that reflect academic excellence. Santa Ana College and Santiago Canyon College are public community colleges of RSCCD, which serve the residents of Anaheim Hills, East Garden Grove, Irvine, Orange, Santa Ana, Tustin and Villa Park. Both colleges provide education for academic transfer and careers, courses for personal and professional development, customized training for business and industry, and programs to train nurses, firefighters and law enforcement personnel.

###