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Press Release

Open House for Teachers to be Held at Downey's New Columbia Memorial Space Center

Downey, CA, February 17, 2010

Downey's new Columbia Memorial Space Center will be hosting a special Open House for local school teachers. Teachers will have the opportunity to learn about the Space Center's interactive exhibits, programs, labs, field trips and tour L.A.'s only Challenger Learning Center for stimulated space missions. Admission to this event is free and giveaways will be provided for all teachers with a current school I.D. A series of dates have been scheduled for the months of February, March and April:

Thursday, February 25 – 4pm to 8pm
Thursday, March 25 – 4pm to 8pm
Thursday, April 22 – 4pm to 8pm

Saturday, February 27 – 1pm to 5pm
Saturday, March 27 – 1pm to 5pm
Saturday, April 24 – 1pm to 5pm

The Columbia Memorial Space Center is owned and operated by the City of Downey and was built on the site of the former NASA Downey facility and it is named the official national memorial to the Space Shuttle *Columbia* by a joint resolution of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. The Space Center honors the crew of STS-107 lost on February 1, 2003 – Rick Husband, Willie McCool, Michael Anderson, Kalpana Chawla, David Brown, Laurel Clark and Ilan Ramon.

The Center officially opened its doors to the public in October 2009. This innovative 20,000 square foot, two-story building features a Robotics Lab, High Definition Computer Lab, and a wide range of interactive exhibits that provide engaging insights into Space Shuttle operations, living and working on the International Space Station, exploration of our solar system, aerospace engineering, and the range of fields of study and jobs related to human and robotic space exploration.

The mission of the Columbia Memorial Space Center is to teach young people about careers in space exploration and aviation. It is a career oriented space science learning center for students enrolled in preschool through college.

The Space Center is located on 12400 Columbia Way (formerly Clark Ave) in Downey, California. It is open to the general public Thursday through Sunday from 12:00 pm – 6:00pm, with special hours available for school groups. Admission is \$5 per person, 3 years and younger are free.

Teachers interested in attending the Open House should contact Christie Pearce at 562-231-1200 or by email at cpearce@downeyca.org. For more information on the Columbia Memorial Space Center, please visit www.columbiaspacescience.org

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For Immediate Release