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City of Downey

# Press Release

## Apollo Capsule on Display at the Columbia Memorial Space Center

Downey, CA, February 16, 2011

On Wednesday, February 10, 2011, the City of Downey placed Boilerplate 19 (BP-19) in the backyard of the Columbia Memorial Space Center. A test version of the Apollo space capsule that went to the moon, BP-19 was transported from Lancaster's Apollo Park back home to Downey in 2008 and was in storage until proper arrangements were made to have the capsule moved to the Space Center. This test capsule was built at the Downey North American plant in the early 1960s and was developed for parachute recovery tests. This boilerplate is a metal mock-up of the same size production model. By using this unmanned boilerplate, the parachute recovery system was evaluated without endangering human life.

"We are very proud of Downey's rich Aerospace history and we are excited to have the Apollo capsule on display. We encourage the public to visit the Space Center and get an up-close look of Boilerplate 19," said Mayor Luis Marquez. The capsule will be used to teach visiting groups about the important role that the City of Downey has played in the Aerospace history of our country.

The Columbia Memorial Space Center is located at 12400 Columbia Way in Downey. For information on the Space Center, please visit [www.columbiaspacescience.org](http://www.columbiaspacescience.org) or call 562 231-1200.

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For Immediate Release