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California Space Authority
Contact: Randall Echevarria
916-551-1543

randall.echevarria@californiaspaceauthority.org

www.csewi.org/speakersbureau



Space Enthusiasts Inspire the Next Generation of Astronauts Seasoned Space Professionals and New Space Professionals Act as Ambassadors for California Space Enterprise

Sacramento – The California Space Authority (CSA) in conjunction with its sister organization, the California Space Education and Workforce Institute (CSEWI), announced today the establishment of the California Space Enterprise Speakers Bureau. The California Space Enterprise Speakers Bureau will be a group of individuals comprised of seasoned space professionals and new space professionals from space-related companies, entrepreneurs, government agencies, and academic research programs that act as ambassadors for California Space Enterprise.

“We have a strong history of aerospace in California and we want to share our story to inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, technicians and mathematicians to pursue a career in the aerospace industry,” said Andrea Seastrand, Executive Director of the California Space Authority.

Studies continually show that the United States and California are failing to produce the demand for skilled scientists, engineers, technicians and mathematicians and this shortage of a skilled and technical workforce is likely to affect California’s ability to compete in the global economy.

“If California is to remain its preeminence in space enterprise, we must take immediate action to meet industry demands for a skilled and technical 21st Century workforce,” added Dr. Jack Gregg, Executive Director of the California Space Education and Workforce Institute. “The California Space Enterprise Speakers Bureau is designed to motivate young people to pursue careers in the aerospace field. Similarly, we envision this effort will educate state decision makers about the plight of our industry in identifying qualified aerospace workers.”

California has been the world seat of space enterprise since the earliest days of the space era. California’s unique combination of aerospace, academic, science/research and national security assets has provided it with a natural synergy capable of innumerable space technology breakthroughs. As we move into the second fifty years of the space era, California continues to incubate “NewSpace” companies and concepts, including space-based services and personal spaceflight adventures to be taken advantage of by average Americans.

The California Space Education and Workforce Institute is a U.S. registered 501(c)(3) tax-deductible nonprofit charity. CSEWI's mission is to inspire parents, educators, and students to engage in California-based space-related education and to attract, integrate and retain a robust space workforce.

California Space Authority is a nonprofit organization supporting California's commercial, civil and national security space stakeholders. Governed by a statewide board of directors, CSA works closely with the State of California, industry, other government, education, workforce entities and academia to support space enterprise development and expansion statewide.



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“This is an exciting time for California as we continue our legacy in the aerospace industry through ‘NewSpace’ business,” said Seastrand. “However, in order for California to succeed in the ‘NewSpace’ or space venturing business, we must address the shortfall in the skilled and technical workforce.”

The California Space Enterprise Speakers Bureau will discuss the past, present and future of the aerospace industry in California and will be available to discuss topics such as current threats and opportunities; business development, retention and growth; supply chains and manufacturing; Generation Y perspectives; generation gap; space venturing; public and policy maker awareness; space science and climate change, and many other topics. Speakers will be knowledgeable, able to bring presentations to life, and inspire informative discussions with the groups they address.

“Communicating the inspirational stories of California’s space history, as well as its potential role in the ‘NewSpace’ future, is expected to inspire and attract new young minds to seek out exciting careers in the aerospace industry,” concluded Seastrand.

If you are interested in joining the California Space Enterprise Speakers Bureau, contact Randall Echevarria at randall.echevarria@californiaspaceauthority.org.

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