

Stockton University Students to Design Experiments for Spaceflight in Mission 11

Undergraduate Research Will Be Tested on International Space Station

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Galloway, N.J. - Students at Stockton University have been accepted for Mission 11 of the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP)

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Center for Earth and Space Science Education (NCESSSE) for final selection, based on flight suitability within the constraints of the portable laboratory rack systems provided by Nanoracks LLC, and how well the experiment fits into the flight's overall mission.

After a flight safety review by NASA, the winning design will fly in spring/summer 2017. The student experiment will be transported to the International Space Station using the SpaceX Dragon vehicle.

The flight will launch from Cape Canaveral, Fla., and members of the Stockton team are expected to be able to attend, said Dean Peter Straub of the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (NAMS).

Once the vehicle is docked, the student experiment will be transferred to ISS where mission specialists will conduct the experiments using the protocols specified by the student teams and agreed to in advance by NCESSSE, NanoRacks, and NASA. NanoRacks was formed in 2009 to provide quality hardware and commercial services for the U.S. National Laboratory onboard the ISS.

To participate at Stockton, students can be from any major as long as they have an interest in science and space travel, according to Straub, who is director of the community portion of the program. The faculty team is led by Jason Shulman, associate professor of Physics, and includes Tara Harmer Luke, associate professor of Biology, Pamela Cohn, assistant professor of Chemistry, Norma Boakes, associate professor of education and Melissa Zwick, assistant professor of Biology.

The Mission 11 project at Stockton is a partnership between NAMS, the Stockton Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Collaborative, the School of General Studies and the School of Education.

Students will receive course credit through the School of General Studies. The student teams will operate under the General Natural Sciences and Mathematics (GNM) curriculum as a learning community with the goal of increasing enthusiasm for STEM-based learning.

After the design phase and space flight, students will analyze the samples returned to Earth. Stockton students can present results at the SSEP National Conference at the Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

Students from the Greater Egg Harbor School District will also learn from the project, as part of Stockton's commitment to STEM education and community outreach. A mission patch design competition will be held at both Stockton and the partner schools to produce a patch design that will also be on the ISS and serve as the project's logo.

Patricia Weeks, director of the Southern Regional Institute & Educational Technology Training Center (SRI & ETTC) at Stockton, which trains teachers on integrating technology in the

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The NCESSSE, headed by Goldstein, provides national science education initiatives focusing on earth and space. No tax dollars are directly provided by NASA or any other federal agency to the SSEP. Funding comes from schools districts, foundations, non-profit funding organizations, and private sector businesses, Goldstein noted.

Stockton will pay \$24,000, all of which was raised by the School of Natural Sciences & Mathematics (NAMS). "We are still fundraising both internally and externally, especially for added travel costs