

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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California Space Authority
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CTE SUMMIT TO FEATURE SPACE ENTERPRISE

Career Technical Education is key to High Tech Industries

SACRAMENTO – From NASA’s “Orion” project and nationally recognized education reformers, to student exhibits showcasing robotics, construction and other career skills, the *Reaching the Stars* Career Technical Education (CTE) Summit will be held at the Sacramento Convention Center on January 15, 2008.

The Summit is sponsored by GetREAL, a coalition of business, education and labor leaders, and will focus on ways to revitalize CTE in California public schools. The California Space Authority (CSA), is actively engaged in this effort as part of its commitment to improve the educational pipeline and address industry’s concerns about qualified replacements to its retiring workforce.

“Retirement eligibility estimates within the space enterprise community are as high as 50% over the next five to ten years,” stated Andrea Seastrand, Executive Director of CSA. “This graying of the industry poses a huge threat. Fewer students entering either college or technical courses are competent in math and science and other basic skills. The CTE Summit will put focus on this problem and help us identify reform options.”

The all-day event will include a keynote luncheon address by author Ken Gray, testimonials from educators and students, discussion groups with leading California Legislators, and speeches from Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi, Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O’Connell and former Governor and current Attorney General Jerry Brown. Surrounding the Summit hall will be hands-on student displays ranging from automotive, engineering and robotics to student-constructed playhouses and agricultural science. A featured exhibit will include NASA’s Constellation Program’s Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle model – the new spacecraft designed for flights to the Moon and eventually to support missions to Mars. A NASA panel will discuss the urgent need for technicians and other skilled workers in aerospace and other cutting edge industries.

WHAT: Career Technical Education Summit 2008

WHEN: Tuesday, January 15, 2008
Program: 8:30 am – 3 pm
Reception: 3 pm – 4 pm

WHERE: Sacramento Convention Center

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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.