Administrator Sean O’Keefe and Florida First Lady Columba Bush have outlined a unique NASA program designed to show learning in a whole new light by giving students and teachers across the country an out-of-this-world experience.

“I am proud of Florida’s unique role in our nation’s space program. In order for that program to enjoy continued success, we must excite school children into learning about science and mathematics,” said Fla. First Lady Bush.

“Educator Astronauts will be able to provide a direct connection between America’s teachers and students, and the various careers and opportunities associated with space exploration through the Nation’s aerospace program,” said Associate Administrator for Education Dr. Adena Williams Loston, who will manage the program. “Education has always been a part of NASA’s mission, and we have renewed our commitment to get students excited about science, technology, engineering and mathematics again,” Loston said.

Teachers and representatives from approximately 15 national education organizations and associations, including the Challenger Center for Space Science Education, the National Science Teachers Association and America’s teachers and students, and the various careers and opportunities associated with space exploration through the Nation’s aerospace program,” said Associate Administrator for Education Dr. Adena Williams Loston, who will manage the program. “Education has always been a part of NASA’s mission, and we have renewed our commitment to get students excited about science, technology, engineering and mathematics again,” Loston said.

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“NASA leads the most ambitious exploration and scientific research efforts in history,” said Administrator O’Keefe. “It’s a legacy that is in jeopardy unless we find innovative ways to get students and the entire education community excited about mathematics and science. We believe the Educator Astronaut Program will help us fulfill our mandate to inspire that next generation of explorers,” he said.

Teachers who want the chance to join the Educator Astronaut Program may apply using the Educator Astronaut website at: http://edspace.nasa.gov. The application deadline is April 30, 2003.

Educators with questions about the program, or who do not have access to the Internet, can call (877 332-7876) toll-free.
Berit Bland, Wallops Space Experiment Module (SEM) Education Outreach Coordinator, accompanied students from Mott Hall School in New York City (above) and Shoshone-Bannack High School in Fort Hall, Idaho (below) to Florida where they visited NASA Kennedy Space Center and attended the launch of Space Shuttle Columbia STS-107 on Jan. 16, 2003.

Both groups have experiments on board SEM-14 in the Shuttle’s cargo bay. The Mott Hall students are studying “Wearable Radiation Protection” and the Shoshone-Bannack students have an experiment called “Natural Space Art”. Visit http://sspp.gsfc.nasa.gov/sem/new/sem14.html for more information on experiments on SEM-14.

Virginia Space Flight Academy offers students a unique opportunity to enjoy a week-long, fun filled summer camp experience, combined with educational field trips to NASA, NOAA and U.S. Navy facilities. Employees explain the functions of the facilities and the educational background required for employment, giving students insight into career development opportunities.

“This past summer seven one-week camps were conducted with enrollment limited to the first 28 pre-paid students,” said Robert Marshall, Executive Director. “The actual enrollment for the summer of 2002 was 191, up from 75 the previous summer and 33 the summer of 2001. Last year the camps sold out two months in advance, so early registration is encouraged.”

Ten camps, for 12-15 year old coed students, will be held beginning June 15 thru August 17, 2003. Each camp begins on Sunday afternoon and ends on Friday at 2 p.m. Tuition is $595, which includes double occupancy housing, meals, transportation while at camp, a workbook, T-shirt, and all instructional materials.

The Academy is supported by the NASA, the Eastern Shore Regional Partnership, the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority, NOAA and the U.S. Navy.

For more information, telephone toll free (866) 757-7223, e-mail: spaceacademy@intercom.net or visit the web site: www.VaSpaceFlightAcademy.org

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**Space Experiment Module Students Attend Shuttle Launch**

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**Virginia Space Flight Academy Camp Schedule**

If you know a child that is interested in how rockets and spaceships fly, aerodynamics, micro gravity, astronaut training, extraterrestrial travel and the role of radar, weather and robotics, Virginia Space Flight Academy is the place for them to be this summer!

At the Space Flight Academy camps, held at NASA Wallops Flight Facility, young space enthusiasts are involved in a host of exciting, hands-on experiences. In addition to building and launching their own model rockets, they engineer and conduct a simulated rocket launch from the Wallops control room while seated behind computer consoles with individual headsets. Returning to the program this year, are activities that make use of robotics kits and flight simulators.

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