



News release

Contact: Kathryn Cooper
Communications Manager
18045 Saturn Lane
Bay Area Houston, Texas 77058
Phone: 832.536.3244
Fax: 832.536.3258
Email: kathryn@bayareahouston.com
Visit: www.bayareahouston.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 8, 2011

Space Week Texas focuses on importance of NASA

BAY AREA HOUSTON, TEXAS – Members and staff of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership joined hundreds of other space enthusiasts in Austin recently to celebrate Space Week Texas 2011. From March 24 – 31, Space Week activities were held in both Austin and College Station. On March 31, NASA made an expert landing in the Texas capital bringing with it cargo comprised of space exhibits, educational presentations for students, astronaut appearances, legislative proclamations and the rare opportunity to touch a piece of an almost four-billion-year-old moon rock.

Humans marked 10 years of living on the International Space Station in November 2010, and the theme of Space Week's events was "Space Matters. Destination: Station...and Beyond." Bob Mitchell, president of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, stated, "NASA makes the nearly impossible seem almost easy. Space Week Texas helps us to remember just what an incredible job NASA and its men and women do every day. They have made us leaders in space for more than 50 years. Right now we're at risk in losing that leadership and our position on the world stage. Many of us traveled to Austin for Space Week and will be going to Washington at the end of May to make sure that doesn't happen. Not now. Not ever."

While more than 4,000 guests explored NASA exhibits, business and industry leaders from Bay Area Houston met with Gov. Rick Perry, Secretary of State Hope Andrade, and the offices of 13 state committee chairmen. Additionally, visits were made to every legislative office at the Capitol.

Since February 2010, when President Obama announced his proposed FY2011 budget, BAHEP has led an initiative to restore adequate funding levels to NASA. Although the president

signed into law the NASA Authorization Bill in 2010, work continues to get the funds appropriately distributed throughout the agency. Mitchell concluded, “It has been a long struggle, but we will continue to fight for the best interests of NASA for as long as it takes.”

-END-



Bob Mitchell, BAHEP president, speaks during a luncheon held for travelers and guests during Space Week Texas.



Brian Freedman and Mike Kincaid of NASA, Houston Mayor Annise Parker, Kirk Shireman, International Space Station deputy manager



Youngsters, as well as their parents, are awestruck by Astronaut Doug Wheelock.



A top level meeting includes (from left) BAHEP President Bob Mitchell, Astronaut Doug Wheelock, Governor Rick Perry, Houston Mayor Annise Parker, Kirk Shireman and Mike Kincaid of NASA, UT student Hannah Bradley, and Keith Graf of the Governor's Office



BAHEP President Bob Mitchell; Darrin Hall, director, Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Relations for Houston Mayor Annise Parker; David Braun, BAHEP's aerospace marketing manager



Joe Mayer, Lockheed Martin, BAHEP's Bob Mitchell, Houston Mayor Annise Parker



The NASA “meatball” was very popular among the kids!



Darryl E. Smith, Sharon McDougle, Mary Ellen Golden, Scott Green



Students view one of the many NASA exhibits at the Capitol.



The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership is a member-driven organization that provides the leadership to stimulate regional economic development and employment in southeast Texas. Its members include more than 260 investor companies, business professionals, local governments, and educational institutions encompassing 13 cities, Galveston and Harris counties, and the Port of Houston Authority. Visit www.bayareahouston.com.

Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program is administered by the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. It is a State of Texas funded initiative designed to transfer the knowledge and technology of the U.S. Space Program to small businesses to solve technical challenges they are unable to solve themselves. Visit www.spacetechnolutions.com/bahep.

