



Dr. William A. Staples
President
University of Houston Clear Lake
2700 Bay Area Boulevard
Houston, TX 77058-1098

Dear Dr. Staples:

NASA's human spaceflight program has been and continues to be one of mankind's greatest achievements. It offers a legacy of vision, of technological advancement, and of the bravery of the men and women who put their lives on the line in order for the people of the world to take the next evolutionary step of exploration.

Preservation of historical documents, photos and relevant paraphernalia will ensure readily accessible information from this significant period of NASA's history. Mankind advances due to the accumulation of knowledge. The importance of NASA's human spaceflight program should not be underestimated, and pertinent data cannot be lost to current and future generations.

Over the years, as NASA's programs reach their full potential and transition into other programs, it will become even more essential to retain these vital pieces of our nation's space history. For this reason, I resoundingly support the archives expansion initiative by the University of Houston Clear Lake which will provide storage capacity expansion for space-related archives as well as the creation of a reading room.

Challenging economic times, such as the world is currently experiencing, should not be the sole guide as to whether or not to help in funding various initiatives. Certain things should be done, because they must be done in support of the "greater good." UHCL's Archives expansion project falls into this category, and the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership firmly stands behind this historically important effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Mitchell", is written in a cursive style.

Bob Mitchell
President