

ECISD student invited to participate in summit panel

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Deidre Morales, a junior at Falcon Early College High School, was selected by the Center for the Advancement of Science in Space and manager of the International Space Station to participate in a panel at the International Space Station Research and Development summit in Atlanta on Aug. 1.

Morales and her team from Falcon ECHS were selected last year as the flight experiment finalist for ECISD via the Mission 12 Student Spaceflight Experiments Program. The experiment they designed was flown to the International Space Station and conducted there last summer.

Morales will be the only SSEP student on this international panel and will represent not only ECISD and Texas, but also three countries that participated in the SSEP, a news release stated.

She will be on a panel of people that have been sending experiments onto the ISS since 1973 and the only SSEP student responding to the impact of conducting an experiment on the ISS. There have been only two



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE ADKINS

Falcon Early College High School student Deidre Morales addresses the media about her chance to be on a Center for the Advancement of Science in Space panel in Atlanta in August.

other SSEP student groups participate in this summit in the past, the release stated.

The team at CASIS felt Morales would be a great choice and thought she was "poised, smart, articulate, and had a research project that is conceptually accessible."

CASIS will cover travel costs for her and one chaperone to include flight, lodging and meals.

SSEP at Falcon ECHS was facilitated in AVID by AVID Coordinator Elizabeth Gray. The Mission 12 student researcher experi-

ment is titled, "The Efficacy of Ideonella Sakaiensis in a Microgravity Environment."

The experiment will study how the bacteria will decompose poly (ethylene terephthalate) in microgravity and compare it to Earth. Poly (ethylene terephthalate) or PET is used in fibers for clothing and containers for liquids and foods.

SSEP is an opportunity brought by ECISD's Innovation Department's program, PICK Education, which serves to bring real-world experiences into the classroom, make learning tan-



>> Student Spaceflight Experiments Program: ssep.ncesse.org
>> International Space Station: issnationallab.org



gible and promote student ownership in their education.

SSEP is designed as a science, technology, engineering and math education initiative and gives students the opportunity to become researchers where they are able to design and propose real microgravity experiments to be conducted by an astronaut aboard the International Space Station. SSEP had 38 communities participating in the competition, across three countries; U.S., Canada and Brazil.

Funding was provided by a grant from the Texas Space Grant Consortium, Subaru of America Inc., Chevron and Education Foundation of Odessa, the release stated.

