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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ECISD students aim for space once again

Ector County Independent School District is ready for space once again. For the second year in a row ECISD has been accepted in the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP) Mission 13 to the International Space Station (ISS).

SSEP is designed as a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) 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 ISS.

On Monday, November 5, 2018 at the ECISD administration building, judges from around the community will evaluate the submissions from campuses competing in the SSEP. Three winning scientific proposals will be submitted to a national selection committee assembled by National Center for Earth and Space Science Education (NCESE), which will select one flight experiment proposal to be sent to the ISS in 2019. An astronaut aboard the ISS will conduct the experiment, and after a typical 4 to 6-week stay in orbit, the experiment will be returned safely to Earth for harvesting and analysis by the school's student flight team.

The three finalists selected by ECISD may also have the opportunity to attend the SSEP National Conference next summer in Washington, D.C. that is hosted by the NCESE. Students may be able to present on their experimental designs and attend featured presentations by nationally recognized scientists, engineers and astronauts.

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 tangible and promote student ownership in their education. Funding was provided by a grant from the Texas Space Grant Consortium, Subaru, Chevron and Education Foundation of Odessa.

The Student Spaceflight Experiments Program [or SSEP] is a program of the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education (NCESE) in the U.S. and the Arthur C. Clarke Institute for Space Education internationally. It is enabled through a strategic partnership with DreamUp PBC and NanoRacks LLC, which are working with NASA under a Space Act Agreement as part of the utilization of the International Space Station as a National Laboratory.

For more information about this press release, contact the ECISD Innovation Department at 432-456-9507.