

ECISD accepted into student spaceflight program

OANEWS@OAOA.COM

For the second year in row, Ector County ISD has been **accepted into** the **Student Spaceflight Experiments Program** Mission 13 to the International Space Station. SSEP is designed as a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education initiative, and gives students a chance 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, 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 (NCESSSE), which will select one flight experiment proposal to be sent to the ISS in 2019, a news release said.

An astronaut aboard the ISS will conduct the experiment, and after a typical four- to six-week stay in orbit, the experiment will be returned 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., which is hosted by the NCESSSE.

Students may be able to present on their experimental designs and attend featured presentations by nationally recognized scientists, engineers and astronauts, the release said.

SSEP is an opportunity provided by **ECISD's** Innovation Department's **program** PICK Education, which brings real-world experiences **into** the classroom.

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

The **Student Spaceflight Experiments Program** is a **program** of the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education (NCESSSE) 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.

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