

Mike Foreman
Astronaut (Retired)

A veteran of two space flights, Mike flew on STS-123 in March 2008, and STS-129 in November 2009, and has logged more than 637 hours in space, including 32 hours and 19 minutes of EVA in five spacewalks. As a retired Astronaut, Mike is working as the CFO and VP for Business Development at Venturi Outcomes, LLC, a consulting firm in Houston.



Michelle Lucas
Founder & President of Higher Orbits

Michelle spent 10 years working at NASA primarily in International Space Station (ISS) Flight Control Operations Planning and as an Astronaut Instructor in the Daily Operations Group. Her passion for inspiring students led to extensive work with other organizations in STEM outreach. She then decided to form Higher Orbits to continue to work to inspire students about the wonders of STEM through spaceflight.



Gary Morris

Gary earned his Ph.D. in Space Physics & Astronomy from Rice University, worked as a post-doctoral researcher at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, then studied transport of air pollution from China to Japan on a Fulbright Scholar grant. He arrived at St. Edward's in July 2014 as Dean of Natural Sciences at Professor of Physics, and is excited to bring Go For Launch! to Austin.



Jim Allan

Jim is the Accessibility Coordinator the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. He was the webmaster at the school for 18 years. Jim helped Space Camp to be accessible to visually impaired students, and has been bringing students for 23 years. He is the current Chair of the User Agent Working Group that developed browser accessibility guidelines. Jim is the Co-Chair of the Low Vision Taskforce. He has a PhD in Special Education from the University of Texas.



Paul Colosky Jr.

Paul is an entrepreneur in the physical therapy, wellness, and fitness industries, and is the owner of Valeo Human Performance, LLC in Houston. His experience in exercise science, athletic training, and microgravity research and parabolic flight resulted in NASA funding to develop and patent the award-winning Constant Force Resistive Exercise Unit (CFREU), for use in maintaining bone and muscle health in space.



This programs is open to high school students.

When:
July 11-13
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Where:
St. Edward's University
3001 S Congress Ave
Austin, TX 78704



Learn more at:
@higherorbits
@spacechelle
#GoForLaunch
www.GoForLaunch.space

St. Edward's University:
Go For Launch!
July 11-13, 2016

Go For Launch! is a 3-day program (8 hours each day) that uses Space Exploration as a platform to launch student involvement in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), STEAM (Art), teamwork, communication, and leadership. This program is created and presented by Higher Orbits, a non-profit, and was developed to reach high school-aged students but can easily be modified for middle school/junior high or collegiate aged groups well.



Go For Launch! is a unique and memorable experience that brings spaceflight to communities that might not otherwise have access to this. Space inspires! The Go For Launch! experience gives students experience and skills that can lead to success in any venture that requires imagination, leadership, teamwork, and problem solving skills. Higher Orbits looks forward to bringing Go For Launch! to your area! For further details, please contact Michelle Lucas michelle@higherorbits.org or call 707-893-STAR.



Students are immersed in the wonder of Human Spaceflight through a variety of talks delivered by experts in the fields of space & STEM: such speakers have included an astronaut, former International Space Station (ISS) and Space Shuttle Flight Controllers, Astronaut Instructors, scientists, and engineers. Students get insight and feedback from experienced space and STEM professionals whose goals are to illustrate the numerous possibilities that exist in the world of STEM. A unique facet of Go For Launch! is that the students will work with an astronaut for at least two - if not all three days of the event.



Astronaut Don Thomas

“If we are ever going to send humans to Mars and to other deep space destinations in the decades ahead, we will need a strong workforce skilled in the STEM disciplines. Through excellent programs like Go For Launch! provided by Higher Orbits, we are working to excite and inspire young students today to “reach for the stars” and pursue careers in STEM.”



Broken into teams, students will work together for the entire event. Nearly every talk features collaborative activity, before or after, where team members must work together to complete tasks for daily awards. These tasks are designed to build leadership and teamwork skills, as well as enhance team communication. The culminating exercise is a design project. Each team must define and design a space experiment. At the conclusion of each program, the teams will present their ideas to a panel of judges from the Space & STEM fields, who will then choose a winner from each Go For Launch! event. Depending on funding, the experiment will either launch, or it will be in competition with a handful of other projects from the area/state and the winner of the allotment will go to space. Options for launching into space include launch to the International Space Station or a Parabolic Flight. Higher Orbits has agreements in place to facilitate both options.



Mellisa Blankenship
Senior Manager of Fee-Based
and Partnership Initiatives
at Kentucky Science Center

“Just when the allure of space exploration is being rekindled with exciting projects like New Horizons, we are thrilled to be a part of amazing and inspiring programs like ‘Go For Launch!’”