Honeywell Educators @ Space Academy Graduates Share Lessons for the Classroom; Teachers are Excited by Unique Strategies for Motivating Students

Baltimore City Mayor Rawlings-Blake and CEOs of Maryland Science Center and U.S. Space & Rocket Center Praise Educators for their Innovation and Commitment to Shape Future Generations

Thirty-four Honeywell Educators @ Space Academy teachers gathered at the Maryland Science Center last week to exchange ideas for teaching Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) curriculum. Space Academy graduates shared their experiences at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama, with teachers preparing for the astronaut training this June. Most of the educators live in Baltimore City or Baltimore County.

"I want to thank Honeywell for enhancing our children's educational experience," said Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. "And I want to congratulate the teachers who will take part in the Honeywell Educators @ Space Academy program. You are doing tremendous work making math and science exciting and giving your students the tools they need to compete in an increasingly competitive job market."

Honeywell's Adventures in Environmental Leadership:

Honeywell Hometown Solutions and the Living Classrooms Foundation are partnering for a fourth year to offer 320 fourth and fifth grade students from Dundalk Elementary and Logan Elementary schools the opportunity to participate in Adventures in Environmental Leadership. The program helps Dundalk-area students become environmental stewards in their communities. Students are learning how to conserve water, mapping their local watershed, spearheading a neighborhood trash pick up, transforming their schoolyards into beautiful green spaces, and stenciling "Chesapeake Bay Drainage - Don't Dump" on storm drains. By June, nearly 1,300 students will have participated in the program.
We are proud of your commitment and are confident that you will inspire a new generation of leaders in professions based in math, science and technology," said John Morris, Director of Baltimore Programs at Honeywell. "Honeywell Educators @ Space Academy is an extraordinary program - a launching pad of ideas and activities - that will strengthen your efforts in the classroom and provide you with new tools to reach and motivate your students."

"You have the opportunity to inspire students and I know it happens everyday," said Van Reiner, CEO and President of the Maryland Science Center. "I think you are going to have a productive week at Space Academy and I am grateful to Honeywell for giving you the opportunity to participate in the program."

"Back by popular demand, FMA Live! will rock the Baltimore area this fall. An award-winning science concert, FMA Live! uses professional actors, original songs, music videos and interactive demonstrations to teach Newton's Three Laws of Motion. More than 7,000 area middle school students were inspired to pursue careers in science and engineering when Honeywell and NASA brought FMA Live! to the Baltimore area in 2007 and 2008.

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake joined (from left to right) John Morris, Director of Baltimore Programs, Honeywell; Dr. Donald Thomas, former astronaut; Dr. Deborah Barnhart, CEO, U.S. Space & Rocket Center; Van Reiner, CEO and President, Maryland Science Center; and Lou Mayo, planetary astronomer, Honeywell, to acknowledge the teachers' dedication to learning innovative techniques to inspire students in science, math, engineering, and technology.
"There is no better work in life than what we are doing today at Space Camp," said Dr. Deborah Barnhart, CEO of the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. "Honeywell is absolutely fabulous, one of the truly stellar companies. They are leaders in education and technology."
Inspired after participating in the intensive educator curriculum focused on space science and exploration, in addition to real-life astronaut training, Space Academy graduates discussed how they have energized their classes by taking Space Academy experiences and applying them to the classroom.

"Space Academy was so engaging, I started a space club at my school that meets every week," said Susan Allen, Honeywell Educators @ Space Academy 2009 graduate and middle school science teacher at Parkville Middle School and Center of Technology. "We have built space shuttle models, designed presentations about how men and women become astronauts, tackled puzzles, and invited former astronaut Dr. Don Thomas to speak."
"Honeywell invested in me and I am investing in my students by doing something that continually excites and engages them," added Allen.

Honeywell Educators @ Space Academy graduates lead a discussion on creative ways to bring the Space Academy training into the classroom. (left to right: John Moscato, 2008; Susan Allen, 2009; Linda McClelland, 2009; Rachel Murphy, 2009; Melinda Berger, 2010; and Jocelyn Virtudes, 2010)

"This program gave me ideas to change my course direction. I know I am going to watch one of my students walk on Mars. Now I have the tools to teach them how to do it," said John Moscato, a 2008
graduate and technology education teacher at Dulaney High School.

"It was the best experience I have ever gone through in my life. It has helped me both personally and professionally. I cannot thank Honeywell enough for this opportunity," said Melinda Berger, Space Academy 2010 graduate and science teacher at Notre Dame Preparatory School.

Keynote speaker, Lou Mayo, a Honeywell planetary astronomer and education outreach specialist, offered approaches for helping students visualize themselves in STEM careers and stressed the importance of community-based and school partnerships.

Lou Mayo discusses approaches that work for reaching students and enhancing their interest in science and math.

And Dr. Don Thomas, former astronaut and Director of Towson University's Hackerman Academy of Mathematics and Science, shared his experiences from space and acknowledged the teachers' dedication to their craft.
The 2011 class of Maryland educators will join 230 teachers from around the world at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama, this June. Nearly 100 Maryland educators (20 in 2011) have been awarded scholarships to Honeywell Educators @ Space Academy during the past five years.

Honeywell Educators @ Space Academy is part of Honeywell Hometown Solutions programs designed to excite students about math and science and inspire the next generation of leaders.

“This will be the generation to set foot on Mars, develop new pharmaceuticals, and new technologies. The future is in the hands of our children and teachers like you are where their passions start,” said Dr. Thomas.

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake receives her own flight suit from Dr. Deborah Barnhart. John Morris,
Honeywell (left) and Van Reiner, Maryland Science Center (right).

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