

News Release

For immediate release



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Challenger Center for Space Science Education awarded NASA Climate Education grant

- MathScience Innovation Center is a Partner in the Project

October 30, 2009, Richmond, VA – Challenger Center for Space Science Education has received a three-year \$564,000 climate education grant from NASA to enhance learning through the use of NASA's Earth Science resources. The MathScience Innovation Center is a partner in this project, and will receive Earth science professional development courses for their staff, help create new Earth science activities using NASA resources and offer a local workshop for teachers in Earth science.

The NASA agreement is expected to leverage NASA's unique contributions in climate and Earth system science. The grant supports NASA's goal of engaging students in the critical disciplines of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and inspiring the next generation of explorers. The MathScience Innovation Center engages hundreds of teachers and thousands of students each year through workshops and simulated spaceflights. This grant will help to expand the center's offerings in Earth science by training staff, helping to develop new workshops and inquiry-based activities for students using near real time data and imagery from NASA satellites.

The program will support partnerships with NASA's My NASA Data and Earth Observatory, two NASA websites that provide real data from Earth orbiting spacecraft to help students conduct science investigations. The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies and the American Museum of Natural History will provide online Earth science courses for Challenger Learning Center educators at 16 participating centers.

Winning proposals were selected through a merit-based, peer-reviewed competition. The winning proposals illustrate innovative approaches to using NASA content to support elementary, secondary and undergraduate teaching and learning, and through lifelong learning. There is a particular emphasis on engaging students using NASA Earth observation data and Earth system models.

The MathScience Innovation Center is proud to be the leader of K-12 math and science education for the eight Central Virginia school divisions within our forty-three year old Consortium (Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, Hanover, Henrico, King William, Petersburg, Powhatan and Richmond Public Schools) and the capacity building workforce program for K-12 educators and students that provides expanded opportunities to learn about emerging fields (fractal geometry, engineering, nanotechnology, environmental modeling) and effective ways to integrate within the curriculum.

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