

## New NCS Internship Program for the Science Fair Winners

July 2014

Dr. Supriya Banerjee  
Chair, AIAA NCS

In collaboration with NASA GSFC, the AIAA NCS has developed a new Internship program for all the NCS science fair student winners. For the first time, **during July 2014, AIAA NCS had an exclusive program for the students winning 1st, 2nd and 3rd place at our eight regional science fairs. The students were awarded a three day, hands-on, experiential learning visit to NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.**

Below we present some photos from the three day program.



GSFC Visitor's Center, Students with GSFC Center Director Chris Scolese and NCS Chair, Dr. Supriya Banerjee



Above: GSFC Center Director Chris Scolese, GSFC Visitor's Center, Earth Science Auditorium



GSFC Visitor's Center- Science on a Sphere



The Hyperwall 2, Lori Perkins, presenter, Bld 28



The Cave and Flight Dynamics Facility, John Vaneepoel, presenter, Bld 28



Dr. Christyl Johnson, Dep Dir, GSFC, addressing students during the lunch



Lunch with Astronaut Paul Richards



Fabrication Laboratory, Garcia Blount presenting



3D printer demo, Garcia Blount of GSFC presenting, Bld 5



Servicing Technology Center, Peter Sooy, Brian Roberts, presenter



Hands on lesson: Instrument Design Lab and Mission Design Lab, Mark Steiner and team, presenter, Bld 23.

The NCS Chair, Dr. Supriya Banerjee participated in the program with the students. Based on her observations and GSFC input, the July 2015 program has been slightly modified. This year, the students will learn about NASA GSFC on the first day, will enjoy VIP Access to the Center's Wallops Island facility on the second day, and on the third day they will visit GSFC laboratories and talk to engineers and scientists at GSFC.

The students enjoyed the program and conveyed their appreciation to NCS.

**Student feedback:** *"I learned a lot about Goddard, engineering, and careers at NASA. It was really cool how we could talk to the Goddard staff interns and ask them questions. All of the activities were very engaging and intriguing and I wouldn't be able to see all of the machinery and things anywhere else. It was also very interesting learning about all of the projects that they were conducting, such as the James Webb Space Telescope and the Antares rocket. It widened my view of the universe and STEM in general, and now I'm definitely more interested in the STEM field. Once again, thank you so much for this amazing program!"*



### The NCS Internship Program advantage

In past years, NCS presented scholarships to Space Camp, in Huntsville, to only the eight first place science fair winners, at a cost to NCS of more than \$800 each. The second and third place winners received nominal cash awards. The Space Camp winners were responsible for their own travel, board, and hotel expenses. We found out that many of these winners, as a result, could not travel to Huntsville due to these additional expenses. Consequently, some of the Space Camp scholarships were wasted.

Under the new program, all the winners have the opportunity to participate in the 3-day Internship program at GSFC. **The new program helped us save \$6400 in scholarship expenses, by providing local Internships at GSFC.** NCS share in this new program is to provide the students with bus fare, between GSFC and the Wallops Island space launch facility and, also, to offer the students lunches for all three days. GSFC carries the bulk of the support for this program in hosting the students and in donating their professional time to engage with, and educate, the students about exciting opportunities within aerospace. NCS is grateful to GSFC for this generous commitment to our future aerospace engineers and scientists. The NCS members and Corporate members endorsed the new program and expressed their support by providing Sponsorships.

The 2014 Science Fair winning students at the NCS Banquet on June 5, 2014 at ANCC, including: Mr. Chris Scolese (GSFC Center Director), Dr. Robert Gabrys of GSFC, Dr. Natalia Sizov (NCS Lead Science Fair Coordinator), and Dr. Supriya Banerjee (NCS Chair).

