



**TRUCKEE TAHOE AIRPORT DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTOR STAFF REPORT**

**AGENDA TITLE:** Tahoe Truckee Excellence in Education Foundation – TTUSD  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade Challenger Mission To Mars, Agency Partnership

**MEETING DATE:** Wednesday, November 6, 2019

**PREPARED BY:** Marc R. Lamb, Aviation & Community Services Manager

**REPRESENTED BY:** Laura Abbey Brown, Exec. Director Excellence In Education

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** No Board action is required. This evening’s presentation is an update to the Truckee Tahoe Airport District’s (TTAD) Board of Directors on the long running Agency Partnership between the Tahoe Truckee Excellence in Education Foundation (Excellence In Ed) and TTAD in support of local youth. This partnership mutually supports the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District’s (TTUSD) 5<sup>th</sup> grade students through the Challenger Series “Mission To Mars” S.T.E.M. (Science Technology Engineering and Math) program. Mrs. Laura Abbey Brown, Executive Director of The Excellence In Education Foundation will be presenting to the Board.

**DISCUSSION:** Each spring up to 16 local TTUSD 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes (~ 400 students) experience first-hand what it is like to be part of a NASA Challenger Space Shuttle Mission to Mars. The daylong field trips take place at either the Reno, NV or Sacramento, CA based Challenger Mission To Mars program facilities. The program is an amazing experience for the youth, not only for what they learn about space travel and the Challenger legacy, but also for what they learn about teamwork and communication.

The field trips are made possible via a collaboration that started in the 2012-2013 school year between the Excellence In Ed, TTUSD and TTAD. In 2012, one teacher from Truckee Elementary submitted a request for her class to attend the Challenger Center in Sacramento. Intrigued with the request, Excellence In Ed discussed the possibility of the Airport District supporting this S.T.E.M. field trip event district-wide, allowing all TTUSD 5<sup>th</sup> grade students the opportunity to

experience the Challenger simulation. 2019-2020 will be the 8<sup>th</sup> year of this successful collaboration.

TTAD budgeted \$8,700 for fiscal year 2019 to cover TTUSD classroom “Field Trip Fees”. The annual amount varies depending on how many classes participate and the class sizes. To date, TTAD has contributed over \$50,000 in Agency Partnership funding toward the program.

**EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION BACKGROUND:** The Foundation is a non-profit foundation that enhances public education and strengthens the student learning experience within the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District. Each year, Excellence in Education partners with local businesses and the community to raise money and provide over \$250,000 in classroom grants, resources, and partnerships to benefit students and teachers in a school district that encompasses 12 schools in a geographic area of 720 square miles.

Excellence In Ed awards grants to teachers in the TTUSD through an application process. They also partner with the school district on key initiatives that are designed to have high impact on student learning, and they recognize exceptional teachers and classified staff through the Linda Brown Fellows and Star Award programs.

Excellence In Ed is governed by an all-volunteer Board of Directors and Advisory Board of more than 40 community members with a broad range of experience, representing all geographic areas of the community.

Since 1990 the Excellence In Education Foundation has worked towards building a successful legacy endowment fund to benefit future generations. The endowment fund is currently held at the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation and has grown to over \$2.5 million. The endowment annually “gifts” up to 3.25% of the three-year trailing average investment balance.

**WHAT’S NEXT:** With continued Board approval, TTAD and staff will continue supporting the Agency Partnership with Excellence in Education and our local TTUSD 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** \$8,700 budgeted in 2019 for Agency Partnership funding to the Tahoe Truckee Excellence in Education Foundation, who then passes the funding through to TTUSD 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers to cover the Challenger “Field Trip Fees”.

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS:** The Truckee Tahoe Airport District is recognized in TTUSD and Excellence In Education Challenger program information. TTAD also markets our program support in our standard media venues, when and where appropriate.

**SAMPLE MOTION(S):** Informational only. No motion required.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Power Point Presentation – 9 slides (by Laura Abbey Brown)

TAHOE  TRUCKEE  
**EXCELLENCE**  
**IN EDUCATION**  
FOUNDATION

*Helping students reach new heights!*



**Excellence in Education invests over \$250,000 every year in the students of TTUSD.**

*Excellence in Education Foundation has been supporting TTUSD for 33 years.*

# What is the Challenger Learning Center?



# Challenger Learning Center

- Designed in cooperation with NASA.
- Keeping the memory and learning vision of the Challenger Space Shuttle alive.
- Over 40 centers in the country.
  - Sacramento, CA
  - Reno, NV



**Francis R. Scobee**  
*Commander*

**Michael J. Smith**  
*Pilot*

**Ronald E. McNair**  
*Mission Specialist*

**Ellison S. Onizuka**  
*Mission Specialist*

**Judith A. Resnik**  
*Mission Specialist*

**Gregory B. Jarvis**  
*Payload Specialist*

**Christa McAuliffe**  
*Teacher*

**THE MISSION CONTINUES**

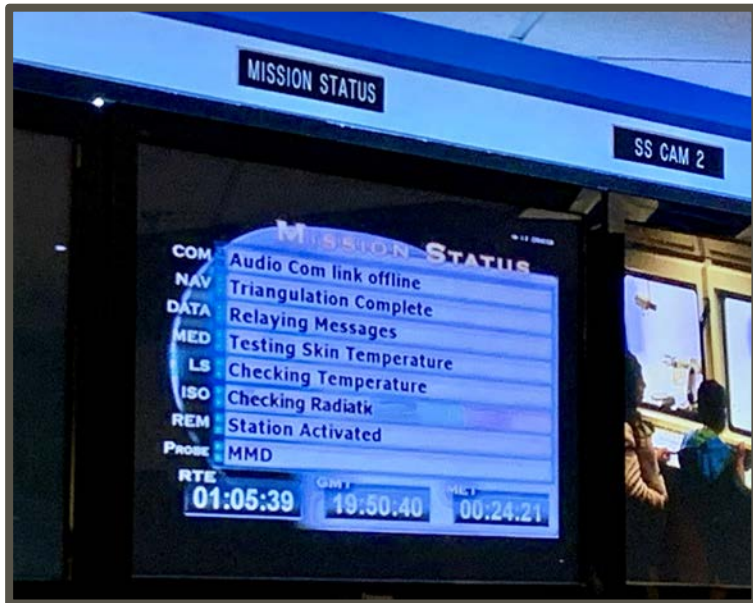
# The Briefing



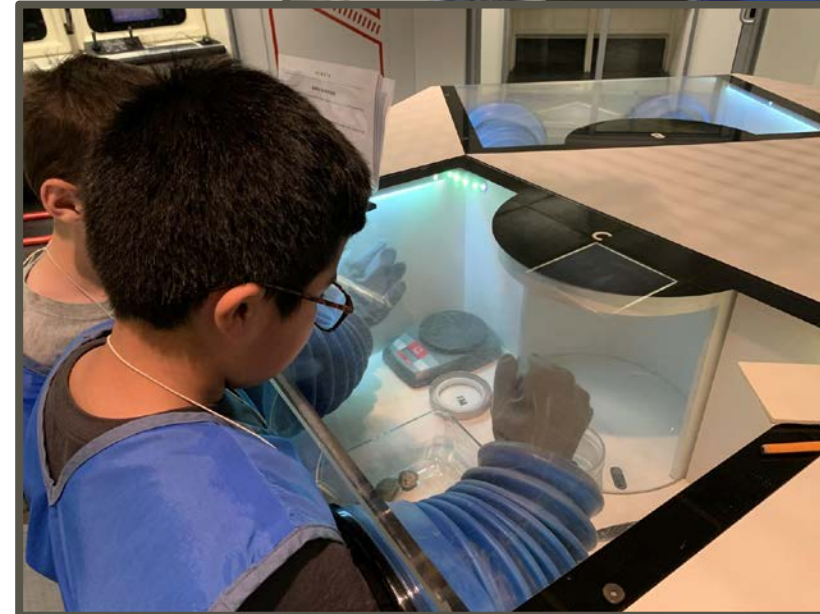
Everyone has an important role.





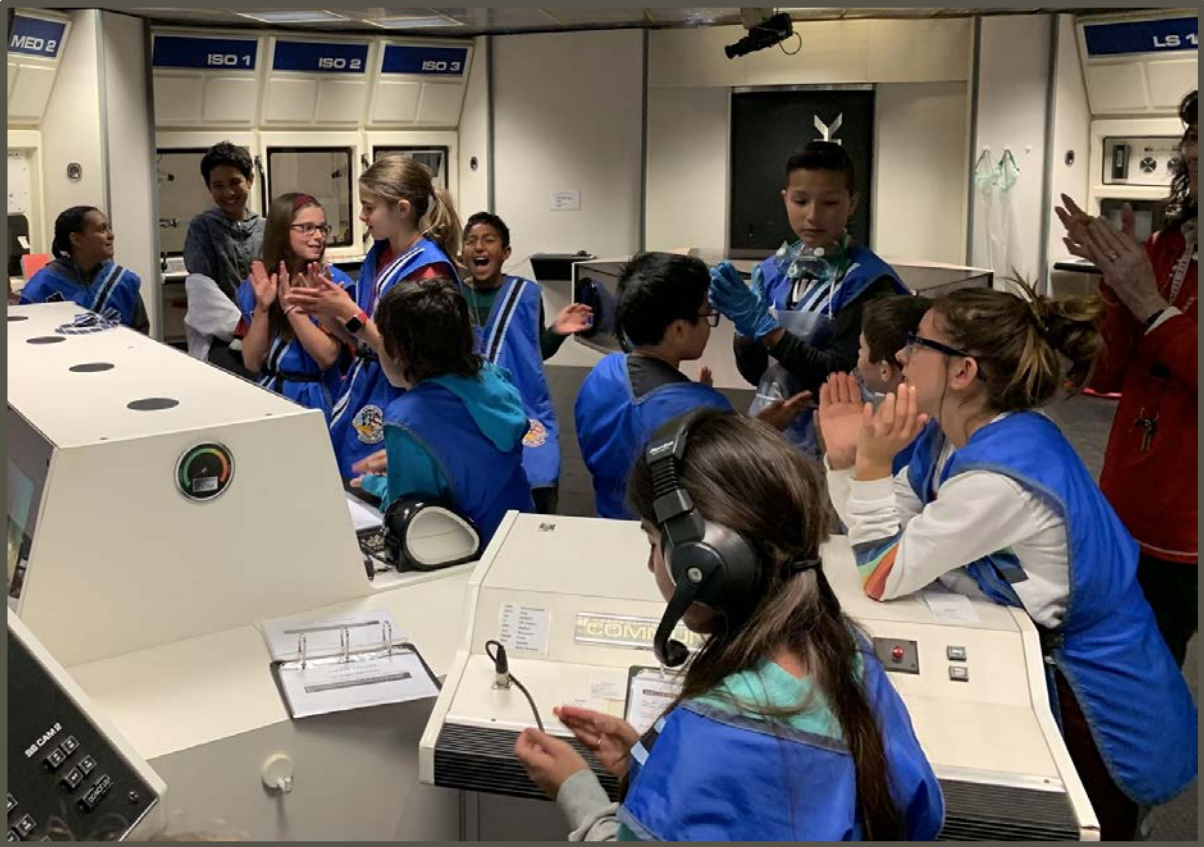
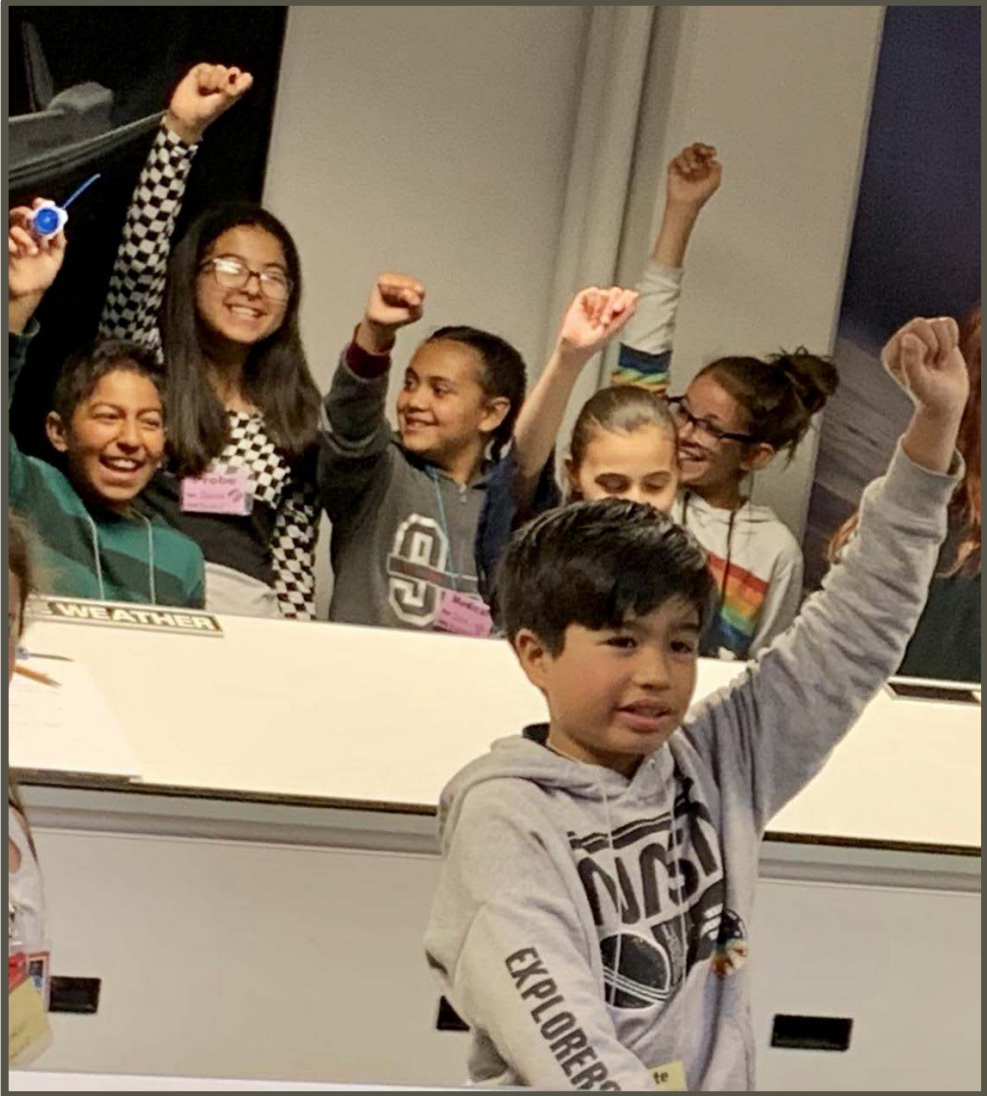


**Control Room**



**Space Craft**

# Success...Mission Complete!





***Thank you!***