



## **JAMESTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

204 Shenango St., Jamestown, PA 16134

PHONE: 724-932-3186 FAX: 724-932-3942

SHANE S. MURRAY, Superintendent

BRIAN J. KEYSER, High School Principal 724-932-3186

TRACY REISER, Elementary School Principal 724-931-3181

1/28/13

Dear Potential Partner,

We are pleased to make you aware that the Jamestown Area School District has been chosen as **one of 14 districts nationally** to participate in the **Student Spaceflight Experiment Program (SSEP)**. The program is sponsored by National Center for Earth and Space Science Education (NCESSSE) based in Washington, D.C.

Launched in June 2010, SSEP immerses typically 300 students across a community in every facet of real scientific research of their own design, using a highly captivating spaceflight opportunity on the International Space Station (ISS). SSEP is a **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)** education immersion program that provides a truly authentic research experience on the high frontier.

SSEP Mission 4 to ISS will provide each participating community a real research mini-laboratory capable of supporting a single microgravity experiment, and all launch services to fly the mini-lab to ISS in Fall 2013. Mirroring how professional research is done, student teams across the community submit research proposals, and go through a formal proposal review process to select the flight experiment. The design competition –from program start, to experiment design, to submission of proposals by student teams – spans 9 weeks from February 25 to April 29, 2013. Content resources for teachers and students support foundational instruction on science in microgravity and experimental design. Additional SSEP program elements leverage the experience to engage the entire community, embracing a Learning Community Model for STEM education.

SSEP is the first pre-college STEM education program that is both a U.S. national initiative and implemented as an on-orbit commercial space venture. SSEP is undertaken by the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education (NCESSSE) in the U.S. and the Arthur C. Clarke Institute for Space Education Internationally. It is enabled through a strategic partnership with NanoRacks LLC, working with NASA under a Space Act Agreement as part of the utilization of the International Space Station as a National Laboratory. The Center for the Advancement of Science in Space (CASIS) is a national partner on SSEP.

For information on the Mission 4 to ISS flight opportunity, visit: <http://ssep.ncesse.org>

We are asking that you partner with us by providing a donation in this endeavor to promote STEM education with our students. The total cost of participation is \$21,500 per school district. I understand that these economic times have put a strain on everyone's budget, but please consider giving what you can. Any contributions to this effort should be sent to: Jamestown Area School District, SSEP, 204 Shenango St., Jamestown, PA 16134. Checks can be made payable to Jamestown Area School District and your gift is tax deductible.

We appreciate your time in this matter.

Brian J. Keyser, Principal  
Jamestown Area High School

Shane S. Murray, Superintendent  
Jamestown Area School District

**AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**