

Local Experiment to Launch into Space



By **Bob Grotenhuis - Producer**
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EL PASO - A local experiment will be carried into space on April 1 at the annual New Mexico Space Grant Consortium Student Launch.

The experiment will be carried into space on board the SL-5 launch vehicle from Spaceport America, and students from all over the region will be on hand to see their projects take off during the biggest launch event to date for Spaceport America.

The experiment designed by Brown Middle School students will determine the effects of microgravity and acceleration forces on a marshmallow, verifying an experiment conducted by the University of Virginia. A student from Brown Middle School will push the button to launch the rocket.

Students from Da Vinci School for Science and the Arts designed the mission patch for the rocket launch.

Over 800 students from across New Mexico, West Texas and Arizona will watch as their experiments go into space on April 1 from Spaceport America. Experiments include 35 sensors including electromagnetic field, carbon dioxide detectors, radiation, acceleration, temperature, pressure and piezo sensors.

The New Mexico Space Grant Consortium is a member of the congressionally funded National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program that is administered by NASA and sponsored by New Mexico State University. The program promotes and inspires lifelong learning in areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics as it pertains to space-related activities. The consortium supports a wide range of projects and scholarship opportunities, including the Student Launch Program.