

## NASA Selects NM For 'Summer Of Innovation'

NASA has awarded the New Mexico Space Grant Consortium (NMSGC) \$2 million for the 'Summer of Innovation' initiative to boost summer learning in programs related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The NMSGC's "Launch and Learn" proposal was one of four chosen by NASA. The program will work with participating middle school teachers and students to design and build experiments for launch into suborbital space from Spaceport America. The middle school students will become part of the high school/college Student Launch Program. This program provides students annual access to space. This year's launch at Spaceport America is on Tuesday, May 4 at 6 a.m. The Summer of Innovation students will have their own launch in the summer of 2011. A live webcast of this year's Student Launch can be viewed on Tuesday morning at [www.launchnm.com](http://www.launchnm.com).

"With help from NASA, we will work with New Mexico students and teachers to expand their math and science-based education programs," said Dr. Pat Hynes, director of the NMSGC. "We were chosen because of our unique capabilities with Spaceport America and because of our Science Engineering Mathematics Aerospace Academy (SEMAA) and the New Mexico Mathematics

Engineering Science Achievement (NM MESA) programs."

In addition to New Mexico, NASA has selected Space Grant Consortia in Idaho, Massachusetts and Wyoming. "NASA is partnering with these states in a pilot program to address our nation's critical science, technology, engineering and math education needs," said NASA Administrator and former astronaut Charles F. Bolden. "Summer of Innovation pairs the strengths of the states with NASA's unique resources to engage more young people and their teachers, and inspire and equip them to excel in these critical disciplines."

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.

For additional information, visit [www.spacegrant.nmsu.edu](http://www.spacegrant.nmsu.edu) or contact Aaron Perez, Program Coordinator at [aaperez@nmsu.edu](mailto:aaperez@nmsu.edu) or call 575-646-6414.