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# SPACE CENTER Roundup

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## JSC expands WSTF Science Advisor program

### *Center partners with CCISD for educational project*



**J**SC is expanding an educational outreach program and is looking for volunteers to work with local schools beginning this fall. The Science Advisor Program, (SciAd), will launch its pilot effort next month in Houston, working with 20 schools in the Clear Creek ISD, including all 18 elementary level schools and two intermediate schools.

The SciAd program is unique because it provides long-term technical advisors to teachers in the schools. SciAds will work with their designated school for up to eight hours a month, for the entire school year, providing the teachers and schools with a consistent, dedicated advisor from JSC.

"One of NASA's priorities is contributing to education excellence in our country. The SciAd program is a great

way to provide support to our local teachers and schools," said Nancy Robertson, Chief of the Education and Community Support Branch in the Public Affairs Office.

"With SciAd, the students and teachers know that you are going to come back," said Michelle Rucker, of the Crew & Thermal Systems Division and a member of the SciAd Steering Committee. "It's not like other one-time appearances such as Career Day – this is an ongoing, long-term relationship."

Organizers are currently recruiting at least 40 civil servant SciAds for the 1999-2000 school year. Each SciAd will be allowed eight hours of duty time per month to support their school.

Individuals interested may apply online by visiting the SciAd Web site at [hro.jsc.nasa.gov/SCIAD](http://hro.jsc.nasa.gov/SCIAD). While applications will be accepted continuously, selections for the first phase of the program will be made from applications submitted by September 17.

In addition to volunteers who will work with the teachers, there are also opportuni-

ties for people to serve on the Resource Team. This team will help develop the various projects and tools the SciAds will share with CCISD teachers. SciAd reservists – employees who are interested in helping but aren't able to commit to becoming a regular SciAd are also needed.

"There are opportunities for all levels of involvement," said Susan Braymer, SciAd Steering Committee chair and deputy director of Human Resources.

SciAd was originally started in New Mexico by the U.S. Department of Energy and Sandia National Laboratories during the 1990-91 school year. NASA's White Sands Test Facility soon joined the program which has expanded to four New Mexico school districts and nearly 100 SciAds.

Rucker, who recently transferred to JSC from WSTF, was a SciAd in the Las Cruces School District.

"That was the best part of my job," said Rucker. "I always came back to work with an adrenaline rush."

"I once had a group of fifth-grade boys approach me in the school hall and ask, if

they canceled their soccer practice, would I come to their science class. If fifth-grade boys are willing to trade sports for science, SciAd works," said Rucker.

"So many NASA employees are driven by their love and appreciation for science – by coming into our schools they are able to share with teachers and students their enthusiasm for and expertise in science," said Terry Brandhorst, Clear Creek ISD Coordinator for Science K-12. Brandhorst recently joined the SciAd Steering Committee, which has been responsible for bringing the SciAd program to life at JSC.

Ultimately, JSC hopes the SciAd program will expand to include other school districts and SciAds from organizations outside of NASA.

"The SciAd program has tremendous potential to benefit everyone involved," said Braymer. "Our JSC SciAd participants gain the satisfaction of helping teachers educate young people while encouraging and influencing the next generation – who may some day play a part in JSC's future." ■



JSC Photo 99E10424 by James Blair

Science Advisor (SciAd) organizers are from left, front: Karen Jackson, Michelle Rucker, Susan Braymer, and Bonnie Dunbar; left back: Mike Kincaid, Nancy Robertson, Rick Barton, Vanessa Bowen, Mike Stewart, Scott Wood, Susan White, Mae Mangieri, Phil West and Jennifer Sheppard.



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