Thomaston Students Participate in Soar to the Stars

Event for girls interested in STEM

HARTFORD, CT – On Saturday, October 27, 2018, Thomaston Public School students from Grades 7, 8 and 9 participated in the “Soar to the Stars Girls STEM Experience” event put on by “Soar to the Stars” and sponsored by the Petit Family Foundation, AETNA and the Space Foundation.

The powerful event was developed to inspire young girls who are interested in or who may become interested in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

Jennifer McDonald, mother of two of the Thomaston students stated about Thomaston’s students, “They met Miss Connecticut, Astronaut Colonel Lockhart, and many other amazing people...what a great experience they had! They loved it.”

Sallie Barlow, Mom of one Thomaston participant was pleased “that some girls from Thomaston attended this great experience.”

The five Thomaston Middle School and High School students who attended the event are pictured below: Left Photo: From Left to Right: Isabella Brostek (Grade 7), Therese McDonald (Grade 7), Mary Lockhart, President and CEO PEMDAS Technologies and Innovations, Paul S. Lockhart, USAF, Ret., Former NASA Astronaut, Jessica Barlow (Grade 8), Sandra McDonald (Grade 9) and Marie Morey (Grade 8). Right Photo: Dr. William Petit and Jessica Barlow (Grade 8).
BACKGROUND:

By 2023 half of all U.S. jobs will be in STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), yet, too few students are pursuing majors in those areas, hindering our global competitiveness. The Soar to the Stars Girls STEM Experience is only the beginning. Through your support we hope to continue providing robust and immersive STEM education programs in the east coast area. In doing so, this further fulfills the Petit Family Foundation’s and Space Foundation’s mission to educate young people, especially girls and women in science.

The Petit Family Foundation and the Space Foundation are proud to host a free STEM experience for girls in the Hartford area, with interactive activities to spark their interest in the sciences. Girls age 12 to 18 years will be able to participate in four different hands-on activities, led by Space Foundation accredited and award-winning educators, all of whom are former classroom master teachers.

Schedule of Events

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:15AM</td>
<td>Check-in</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>Welcome / Breakfast</td>
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<td>8:10AM</td>
<td>Women in Science Panel / Q&amp;A</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00AM</td>
<td>Hands-on STEM Activities</td>
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<td>12:00PM</td>
<td>Closing Remarks</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30PM</td>
<td>Luncheon with Guest Speaker Paul Lockhart, USAF, Ret. Former NASA Astronaut</td>
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<td>2:00PM</td>
<td>Event Conclusion</td>
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Saturday’s Soar to the Stars event featured a series of hands-on STEM activities and a Women in Science Panel consisting of:

- Mary Lockhart, President and CEO of Technologies and Innovations
- Karolyne Maloney, Senior Director of IT Hygiene, Program and Identity and Access Management, Aetna
- Bridget Oei, Miss Connecticut
- Dr. Kathy Thornton, Professor at PEMDAS® University of PEMDAS® Technologies Program and Identity and Access Management, Aetna, Virginia Former Astronaut, and Innovations Management, Aetna

Saturday’s Soar to the Stars event also included a luncheon speaker:

Paul S. Lockhart, USAF, Ret.
Former NASA Astronaut

Lockhart Biography

About Soar to the Stars

About The Petit Family Foundation

The Petit Family Foundation is a 501c3 organization that memorializes Jennifer, Hayley and Michaela Petit by continuing the kindness, idealism and activism that defined their lives. The Foundation’s funds are given to foster the education of young people, especially women in the sciences; to improve the lives of those affected by chronic illnesses; and to support efforts to protect and help those affected by violence. www.petitfamilyfoundation.org
About The Space Foundation

Founded in Colorado Springs in 1983, the Space Foundation is the world's premier nonprofit organization to inspire, educate, connect, and advocate on behalf of the global space community. We are a nonprofit leader in space awareness activities, educational programs, and major industry events, including the annual Space Symposium, the largest annual gathering of space professionals in the world. Through our robust education program offerings, more than 46,000 students and teachers received in-person, hands-on STEM education, using the excitement of space to turn young people's attention to the fascinating world of science and technology. www.spacefoundation.org

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