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Los Altos high school students seek local support in winning national contest
Public votes will help determine winning team

NAME OF TOWN — A team of students representing **Los Altos high school** in Hacienda Heights, has been named a finalist this week in the annual "Pete Conrad Spirit of Innovation Awards" now underway.

Teams of high school students participate in the competition to develop new business opportunities in the fields of personal spaceflight, lunar exploration or renewable energy.

Hacienda Heights residents are encouraged to vote for their hometown team by visiting www.conradawards.org. In addition to voting, communities may provide guidance, and micro grants for use in research, experiments and development of working prototypes.

Team members include Eduardo Barrera, John Weng, Stephanie Hsu, John Chen and Vivian Tse. The team advisor is Edward Richter..

The title of their project is: Lunar Spectator. The Lunar Spectator is an advanced tank-like vehicle that is specifically engineered to take civilians to explore the lunar surface. Nothing but the best materials and systems have been assembled for the construction of this piece of advanced mechanics. The Lunar Spectator will be the first internal combustion engine that can operate in space making it a pioneer of space and mechanics.

The Conrad Foundation, primary sponsor of the contest, will recognize innovative thinking among youth and build a new generation of scientists to solve some of the most pressing problems of the 21st Century.

The not-for-profit foundation was formed by Nancy Conrad, wife of the late Charles "Pete" Conrad, who was the third man to walk on the Moon and a veteran of four space flights spanning Projects Gemini, Apollo and Skylab.

"Innovation is what this country does best," said Nancy Conrad. "It is what sent Pete to the Moon and it is the very foundation of our knowledge-based economy. Through this competition, we are growing the future innovators that will keep America economically and intellectually solid."

The finalists will attend the Innovation Summit™, April. 2-4, 2009 at NASA Ames Research Center, Moffet Field, Calif. Here, they will meet world level innovators such as technology,

business pioneer and author Judy Estrin, Tim Draper, the founder the global venture capital firm Draper, Fisher Jurvetson and David Pensak, Ph.D., an internationally recognized leader in computer software technology and innovation. The teams will present their ideas to an expert panel of judges, attend workshops and compete for more than \$120,000 in prize money.

To learn more about the Pete Conrad “Spirit of Innovation” Awards visit www.conradawards.org

About Charles “Pete” Conrad

Pete Conrad’s accomplishments span the entire history of manned space flight. Conrad flew Gemini V and Gemini XI and became the third man to walk on the Moon on Apollo XII. He also flew the Skylab II mission, in which his emergency spacewalk saved the entire station and earned him a Congressional Space Medal of Honor. After retiring from NASA, Conrad returned to space, no longer as an explorer, but as an entrepreneur. He was a key participant in the ventures that created the beginning of the commercial space industry. Conrad tragically passed away in 1999.

About The Conrad Foundation

The Conrad Foundation is a not-for-profit foundation designed to energize and engage students in science and technology through unique entrepreneurial opportunities. The Foundation builds upon the legacy of heroes in our past to nurture the heroes of our future. By enabling young minds to connect education, innovation and entrepreneurship, the Conrad Foundation provides a bold platform for enriching human capital.

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