



***Strategic Space Forum at Rice University  
in cooperation with Rep. Pete Olson, R-Texas***

Dear Colleague,

I am pleased to invite you, or your designate, to attend the Strategic Space Forum at Rice University along with our special congressional guest, Rep. Pete Olson, R-Texas, who serves as co-chair of the House Space Caucus and as a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Recent changes in the Human Spaceflight Program at NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC) have created some serious concerns in the greater Houston community about potential loss of high-quality professional jobs and expertise at NASA and in the associated local industries. The Houston area is a world center for energy, medicine, space, science, engineering and education and is known for fostering innovation, entrepreneurship and interdisciplinary leadership. The Strategic Space Forum at Rice University is designed to bring together these leaders to discuss opportunities for preserving the expertise of the JSC workforce and building on other core local capabilities to address the challenges faced in the coming months and years.

**Where:** BioScience Research Collaborative, 1<sup>st</sup> floor Auditorium, 6500 Main St., Houston, TX 77005

**When:** Friday, July 1, 2011, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (coffee at 8:30 a.m.)

**Hosts:** Rice University in cooperation with Rep. Olson

**Format:** Panel discussion with invited observers

**Purpose:** To begin a dialogue between interested parties in academia, industry and government exploring future joint partnerships with NASA JSC in related science, engineering, technology and education

The forum will focus on three key areas:

- Fostering partnerships between academia, industry, NASA
- Identifying the synergies and prospects for partnership; where do we have the impetus, expertise, and purpose?
- Implementation: How do we make these ideas work?

The panel will participate in a round table discussion that will identify opportunities for partnership, cross-cutting technology development and application, and workforce development.

There is no better time as the JSC mission evolves and no better location because of Rice University's rich history and strong ties to the space community. This is the first step in our efforts to bring the broader Houston space endeavor together with other area capabilities. Options for further activities will be discussed at the forum.

Additional details will be distributed next week. In the meantime, for more information please do not hesitate to call any of the following points of contact:

Dr. David Alexander, Professor, Rice University  
(713) 348-3633

Cory Kennedy, Director of Government Relations, Rice University  
(713) 348-6237

We sincerely hope you will be able to join us and look forward to hearing from you.

Daniel D. Carson, Ph.D.  
Dean, Wiess School of Natural Sciences