

Aerospace Workforce Development
Space Sciences Opportunities for the
Florida High School/High Tech program

The Florida Space Authority (FSA) is seeking support to develop and implement an aerospace workforce space sciences development program for the Florida High School/High Tech program. The Florida High School/High Tech (HS/HT) state-wide program promotes careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to students with disabilities. FSA is pleased to partner with HS/HT because they have demonstrated success during their last 5 years. For example, over 90% of the Florida HS/HT participants graduate from high school and over 80% go on to pursue post-secondary education/employment and training. Through this proposal, FSA is requesting support to provide aerospace workforce development educational opportunities to over 500 students enrolled state-wide.

Currently, the Florida HS/HT program receives approximately \$500,000 in funding support by the Able Trust, The Florida Governor's Alliance on Employment, and the US Department of Labor. Recently, the Florida Space Authority signed a formal agreement to provide educational programs to the participants statewide. In 2004, FSA hosted several HS/HT programs. HS/HT students participated in various educational and mentoring activities through FSA and KSC. In addition, CAPT Winston E. Scott, former NASA Astronaut, introduced aerospace career options to students and provides mission briefings with a question and answer session. FSA is requesting support through this proposal to enhance the current HS/HT program to introduce space sciences careers in a variety of areas. The goal of this FSA workforce development program will be to encourage high school students to pursue careers in various areas of the space program that will help diversify the states workforce. For example, this program will provide participants the opportunity to learn more about biotechnology and space life sciences at the Space Life Sciences lab at KSC. In addition, FSA will develop site visits and career development experiences through hands-on space sciences experiments and research projects in remote sensing through meteorological balloon launches and GPS training activities. Finally, FSA will help expand Florida's future workforce by introducing HS/HT students to the Aerospace Technician Program at Space Tec. Students will conduct site visits, speak to participants in the program, and view high tech training demonstrations. Through this program FSA and HS/HT students will also research various new technologies and investigate potential commercial uses in assistive technology and other areas.

Captain Winston Scott
Executive Director
Florida Space Authority

