

# THE MISSION

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Issue 1

Editor, Seth Paul

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the UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE  
CHATTANOOGA



Established in 1994



## UTC CHALLENGER LAUNCHES NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first edition of THE MISSION. This new online quarterly newsletter is the first to be published by the UTC Challenger STEM Learning Center. THE MISSION embodies the origins and rich history of the Challenger Center. When the crew of the Challenger Space Shuttle perished in 1986, they were on a pioneering mission to extend the boundaries of human knowledge with their education mission and having the first teacher in space as member of their crew. In their honor, the crewmembers' families established Challenger Centers with the desire to continue that educational mission. Today our UTC Challenger STEM Learning Center is part of a global network of 45 Centers located throughout the US, Great Britain, Canada and South Korea. The goal of THE MISSION is to

communicate the good news about our programs and our community partnerships. We, the staff of the Challenger Center, want to thank you for your support and invite you to plan a visit soon.

-Perry Storey, Director

### ECHO COVERS CHALLENGER CENTER

UTC's student newspaper *The Echo* recently published an article by Andrea Teteault about the Challenger STEM

Learning Center (CSLC). In it she discussed how the center has recently hired a new Director, Perry Storey, a former principal of Notre Dame High School and his plans to "raise the facility's profile". She interviewed Storey, and quoted him as saying, "We want to introduce science and technology to kids as early as elementary [school]," Storey said. "We want to think of ways to extend the program even to students in high school." He also has plans to extend the attraction of the center from younger students to include UTC students as well. The center plans to encourage students and teachers alike to attend team-building exercises, testing their problem-solving with situations similar to what astronauts might encounter.



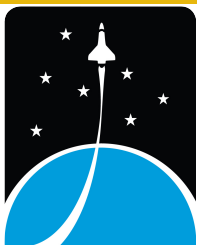
855 E 5<sup>th</sup> Street Chattanooga, TN 37403

## CHANCELLORS ROUNDTABLE HOLDS FIRST MEETING AT CHALLENGER CENTER

The first meeting of Chancellors Roundtable for this school year was held at the Challenger STEM Learning Center on Tuesday, September 24, 2013. Chair Scott LeRoy, (pictured below) Partner and Attorney with LeRoy, Hurst, and Bickerstaff PLLC led the meeting which included a presentation about the Challenger Center by the Director Perry Storey and table-top discussions on enhancing community partnerships and student success.



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## UTC STEM EDUCATION STAFF VISITS CHALLENGER CENTER



## CHALLENGER CENTER HOST NATIONAL EDUCATION ORGANIZATION LEADERS

**Challenger<sup>®</sup>**  
LEARNING  
C E N T E R  
CHATTANOOGA, TN



Chattanooga Convention &  
Visitors Bureau

The UTC Challenger STEM Learning Center and partnered with the Chattanooga Convention and Visitor Bureau (CCVB) to host executives from more than 60 National Educational Organization on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The Challenger Center hosted this meeting as part of a four-day program hosted by the CCVB to encourage these national organizations to consider Chattanooga for their future conventions. Commissioner A. Hasan Davis, J.D., Commissioner for the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice, conducted the program held at the Challenger Center as part of Trust for Insuring Educators (TIE) program. Some of the organizations represented at the meeting were the Council for Exceptional Children, the American Alliance for Health, Alpha Delta Kappa, the National Association for Music Education, the Association for Career and Technical Education, the Association of American Educators, the National Council for Teachers of English, the Correctional Education Association, Phi Delta Kappa International, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, the American String Teachers Association, the American Association of Community Colleges, the American School Counselors Association, the National Business Education Association.

The UTC STEM Education Program stopped by the UTC Challenger STEM Learning Center to try their hand at our team building exercises. In STEM Education Co-Director Billy Millican's own words, "Kudos to Team Building in the Challenger Center!! For our STEM Education staff, this was an awesome, positive experience. Every participant was engaged and problem-solved their way to some crazy solutions and interacted in a fun and entertaining way to 'rescue' each other, not to mention how our team saved the crew on Mars from some untimely fate! We now know to keep a close eye on Bill Floyd, UTC Challenger STEM Learning Center Flight Director, on our next Mars Trip. That rascal causes some strange things to happen! The meal together afterwards was literally 'icing on the cake!' This event truly brought our program together in ways that have already spilled over into our day-to-day operations of working together to serve our students better."



## STEM PROGRAMS PARTNER

The UTC Challenger STEM Learning Center and the UTC SimCenter: National Center for Computational Engineering have partnered to serve middle school students throughout the Tennessee Valley region. Established in 1994, the Challenger STEM Learning Center provides innovative, hands-on educational programs that deliver simulated space missions to thousands of middle school students each year. The SimCenter, established in 2002, has a national reputation for excellence in solving real-world engineering problems in diverse fields such as hydrodynamics, aerodynamics, propulsion, heat transfer, electromagnetics, and computational design optimization. Since 2008, the SimCenter has offered STEM outreach programs to expose students in our region to opportunities in engineering. This new partnership will now allow many of the thousands of students who visit the Challenger STEM Learning Center each year to have

the opportunity to visit and experience the dynamic programs provided by the SimCenter.

Perry Storey, Director of the Challenger Center is excited about the partnership and the opportunity of serving more students, as well as providing them with exposure to another high quality STEM program at UTC. "National studies have identified that students in the middle school grades are the targeted group needing exposure to Science Technology, Engineering and Math programs. It is during this impressionable learning period that middle school aged students establish an interest in STEM areas, and we want to nurture this spark for learning. Also, this is the first exposure that many students have to the University environment, and we hope that their experiences here will energize them as they prepare for college-level programs."

SimCenter STEM Outreach Coordinator Lindsey Frost Cleary sees the partnership as a wonderful



opportunity to expand the reach of the SimCenter's educational offerings. "Visiting the SimCenter gives students the chance to see world-class engineering research happening right here in Chattanooga. We're really thrilled to expand this opportunity to a broader range of students while also helping to further establish UTC as a center for STEM learning in our community."

Dr. Valerie Rutledge, Dean of the College of Health, Education and Professional Studies, noted the important role the Challenger Center plays in offering opportunities for faculty, students, and partners. During the missions, individuals participate in valuable learning experiences which offer unique simulations and allow participants to gain skill in collaboration, problem-solving, and analysis of factors impacting the success of the activity.

**Saturday November 2, 2013**

**9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

**UTC Challenger STEM  
Learning Center**

**855 East 5<sup>th</sup> St, Chattanooga, TN**

**FREE SATURDAY  
CHALLENGER  
DAY MISSION**

For Children of UTC employees

To register, email completed registration form to Ellie Wallis, Program Resource Specialist at [Ellie-Wallis@utc.edu](mailto:Ellie-Wallis@utc.edu). Please call us at (423) 425-4126 with any questions.

Children of UTC employees who are enrolled in the 5th-8th grade (5th Grade Reading Level) are encouraged to attend. Younger children (3rd & 4th Graders) are also welcome, but parents must agree to assist them with mission tasks. First come, first served. Maximum number of participants for the free mission is 30 Children and the minimum number is 15 Children. *Grandchildren of UTC Employees will also be considered if space is available.*

**MISSION:** Voyage To Mars. Our voyage begins in the year 2076 with a relief crew in route to the Red Planet. Your mission will be to relieve the existing Mars Crew that has manned Mars Control for the past 2 years and launch a probe to one of the Martian moons.

# CAMPUS PARTNERS

## THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE

# CHATTANOOGA

We are now in the process of planning additional team-building and departments retreats for some of our campus partners. We again encourage you to consider using the Challenger Center and our unique programs at no cost to our campus partners.

We offer:

- A unique on-campus retreat site that is time-efficient and cost-effective.
- Team-building programs that can be customized to help you meet your team's specific goals.
- Strategic Planning sessions.
- Quality meeting/classroom space for your team use.
- Challenger missions customized for your team.
- Help in planning all aspects of your program.

If we can help please contact Ms. Ellie Wallis, Program Resource Specialist, at (423) 425-2191 or [ellie-wallis@utc.edu](mailto:ellie-wallis@utc.edu)

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## MOCS

# RESERVE YOUR DATE NOW