



NASA Nebraska Space Grant

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Press Release

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA STUDENT AND STAFF MEMBER LAUNCH EXPERIMENTS TO SPACE ON NASA ROCKET

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Omaha, NE, June 27, 2009:

Nearly 100 university faculty, staff, and students from 21 states saw their experiments rise into the sky at 5:30 a.m. on the morning of June 26 with the successful launch of a NASA suborbital sounding rocket from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia. The week prior to the launch, participants prepared their scientific payloads during an intensive hands-on workshop.

The two-stage Terrier-Orion sounding rocket carried the experiments to an altitude of 73 miles, and as planned, dropped back to the Earth landing in the Atlantic Ocean. The payloads were recovered and the participants successfully retrieved data from their experiments.

Andrew Kelley, Senior from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Michael Sibbensen, Staff Member of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, were participants. Sibbensen, the Outreach Coordinator for the NASA Nebraska Space Grant Consortium, said of the workshop, "This was an incredible experience for all involved." Nebraska Space Grant anticipates sending additional students and faculty from the state to participate in future rocket workshops at Wallops.

The program is conducted in partnership with the Colorado and Virginia Space Grant Consortia with support from NASA. The purpose of the workshop is to not only teach future scientists about developing experiments for flight on sounding rockets, but to excite students about the field of Aerospace Engineering. Faculty and students will carry their new-found knowledge back to their home institutions where they can work on future experiments for flight on subsequent launches.

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The NASA Nebraska Space Grant is one of 52 consortia, all part of the *National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program*; established by the U.S. Congress in 1989. The goals of the program, are:

- Establish and maintain a national network of universities with interests and capabilities in aeronautics, space and related fields.
- Encourage cooperative programs among universities, aerospace industry, and federal, state and local governments.
- Encourage interdisciplinary training, research and public service programs related to aerospace.
- Recruit and train U.S. citizens, especially women, underrepresented minorities, and persons with disabilities, for careers in aerospace science and technology.
- Promote a strong science, mathematics, and technology education base from elementary through secondary levels.