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NEWS RELEASE

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HCHS Student NASA Aerospace Scholar for 2011



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Houston County High School astronomy student, Erika Leslie, was selected as a NASA Aerospace Scholar for 2011. Erika will spend a week working with NASA engineers at the Johnson Space Flight Center (JSC) in Houston this summer.

All expenses, including transportation, are NASA-funded. The program is known as WISH (**W**omen **i**n **S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering and **M**ath - **H**igh **S**chool).

Erika competed with hundreds of other high school junior women for this honor and only 40 were selected from around the country. Each girl designed several manned space exploration projects that were competitively judged by NASA engineers at JSC.

Erika will join an engineering team to include NASA professional women engineers and Aerospace Scholars. The team leaders will continue to mentor the youngsters in their careers as they complete their senior year of high school in 2012 and advance to college. They will also maintain contact with their peer team members and help recruit female scholars for future years.

Erika is pictured with her astronomy teacher, Joe Molyson. He said, "It's unfortunate that NASA still has a great deficit of female engineers and scientists, but this kind of program is going to help them overcome that problem in the long run. Congratulations to Erika on her selection!"

Houston County High School is located at 920 Highway 96 in Warner Robins. Sherri Freeman serves as principal. For more information, please e-mail Joe.Molyson@hcbe.net or visit <http://wish.spacegrant.org/>

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