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South L.A. youth center partners with NASA to offer space camp

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Posted: Saturday, June 15, 2013 5:47 pm | Updated: 1:58 pm, Tue Jun 18, 2013.

By Olu Alemoru, Staff Writer | 0 comments

As if to welcome the re-engineered new Superman — “Man of Steel” — a South Los Angeles youth center has announced a partnership with NASA to promote a love for engineering through a low-cost summer camp.

The Al Wooten Jr. Heritage Center, 9106 S. Western Ave, will be hosting the NASA Summer of Innovation (offered through NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena), from July 1 to Aug. 23 for boys and girls in grades three to nine.

Founded in 1990 by Myrtle Faye Rumph in honor of her son, killed in a drive-by shooting, the nonprofit center provides after-school, summer, gang prevention and college readiness programs for more than 200 students per year.

The center is financed annually with donations in the tens of thousands from major sponsors such as Wind Dancer Films, KROQ Radio, John and Lisa Brady, John and Evelyn Lapham, D Trade, the Geiser Family and Drown Foundation.

The camp, backed by a \$5,000 donation from the private World Impact Foundation, will be open Monday through Friday, 7a.m. to 6 p.m. and the weekly tuition is \$55.

With the theme “Exploring Engineering,” activities will be based on the “NASA Summer of Innovation Jet Propulsion Laboratory Handbook: Engineering.” The 217-page book provides lesson plans for projects like Pop Rockets, Egg Drop Lander and Solar Oven. JPL representatives are set to train Wooten staff members at the center on June 21.



Al Wooten Jr. Heritage Center

Summer Fun Camp 2012 robotics class with instructors Jaylen Thomson and Marcos Escobar.



“I found the course online, looked at their materials and was blown away,” said Naomi McSwain, Wooten's executive director. “We need to train our kids to get used to the college-ready experience. In the handbook the materials are all found naturally; for instance the rocket launcher is a liter-sized soda bottle, but the concepts that will be taught are priceless.”

Information: Education Director Porcya Duberry (323) 756-7203, ext. 28



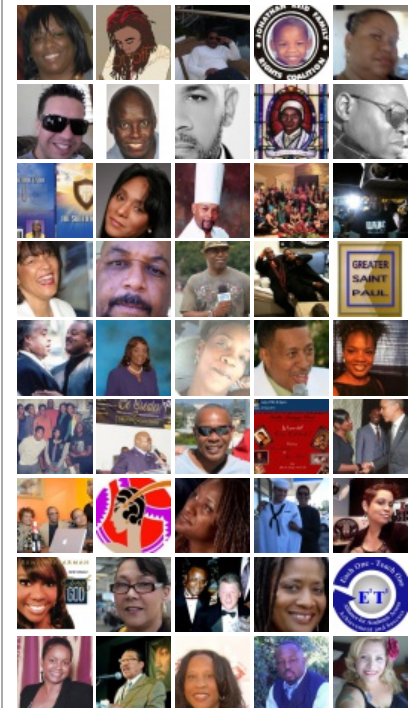
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