



Advocating for Business

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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**Press Release
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Business Networking and Astronaut - Teacher in Space featured at new Chamber Monthly Luncheon

The Clermont Chamber's Monthly Membership Luncheon Series is your best new business visibility opportunity for 2010. On Friday, January 8, (and every second Friday of 2010) join the Clermont business community for a business lunch at Receptions Conference Center East, 11:30 – 1:30. Meet new Chamber members or reconnect with others; hear about their companies; and have the opportunity to talk about yours.

In addition to the opportunity to make business connections, the January Monthly Luncheon will feature Pathfinder Astronaut – Teacher in Space Stephen Heck. Lt. Col. Heck, a US Air Force veteran, is a former department chairman and professor of Aerospace Studies at the University of Cincinnati, has over 2,700 flight hours in jet aircraft and holds two world records set in KC-10 aircraft. Selected as one of seven astronaut teachers who will boldly go where no astronaut has gone before — back into the classroom. Lt. Col. Heck is an 8th grade Earth Science teacher in the Milford Exempted Village School District.

With the dawn of the commercial spaceflight industry, Teachers in Space, started under the Reagan Administration, was reborn. Now a joint project of the Space Frontier Foundation and the United States Rocket Academy, Teachers in Space plans on using suborbital flights donated by and purchased from five private suborbital companies.

"The road to space does not start in an aerospace factory," said Col. Rick Searfoss (USAF-ret.), a former Space Shuttle commander and chief test pilot for XCOR Aerospace, one of the suborbital rocket companies. "It starts in the imagination, and the best place to fire up young imaginations is in school."

Each Chamber Monthly Luncheon will feature a non-profit Chamber member. Boys & Girls Club of Clermont County was selected to be the Featured Non-Profit member in January. Since 1996, the Boys & Girls Club of Clermont County has been dedicated to providing quality youth programs and services that will enhance the lives and shape the futures of youth of all backgrounds. Working with over 700 children annually, the Club continues to strive to meet the ever-growing needs of these young people offering them what they need and want most – adults who respect and listen to them; a safe environment where they can have fun and be themselves; and interesting, constructive activities that channel youthful energy into challenging pursuits.

Grant Career Center is the sponsor of the January Monthly Membership Luncheon. At Grant, students find great career preparation, expert teachers and professional facilities and equipment. Grant's academic program is one of the best in Ohio so if college is in your future, no worries, Grant will help get you there. Grant is rated one of Ohio's top 5 schools in academic achievement and post-graduation success. The mission of Grant Career Center is to prepare youth and adults with employability practices, academic preparation, and technical skills to become productive capable citizens to pursue educational opportunities and profitable enjoyable careers.

To register for the January 8 Chamber Luncheon, call 576-5000 or visit www.clermontchamber.com.

Founded in 1969, the Clermont Chamber of Commerce promotes local and regional business through business attraction, retention & expansion, educational and networking opportunities, business consulting assistance and business advocacy for the over 1000 Clermont Chamber Members. Find us at www.clermontchamber.com. The President of the Clermont Chamber of Commerce is Matthew D. Van Sant, and the Chairman of the Board is Chip Gerhardt of Government Strategies Group, LLC.