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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

School District and City Announce Board Members

Palmdale School District, the City of Palmdale, and the AERO Institute have announced their representatives to The Palmdale Aerospace Academy's Board of Directors. The city announced last week that they are appointing Mayor Jim Ledford, Councilmember Laura Bettencourt, and Kevin Petersen, former director of NASA Dryden. The AERO Institute announced that its executive director, Dr. Susan Miller, will be on the board. This week, the Palmdale School District announced its appointment of Dante Simi, Joel Beckman, and Dr. Leslie "Les" Uhazy to the Board of Directors for The Palmdale Aerospace Academy, Inc.

Mr. Simi currently serves as a charter school operator and businessperson in the Antelope Valley. Mr. Beckman, a retiree from both the United States Air Force and the Air Force Research Laboratory, is currently the Antelope Valley Coordinator of the National Defense Education Program. Dr. Uhazy is currently the Dean of Science and Mathematics at Antelope Valley College.

Palmdale School District Superintendent Roger Gallizzi stated, "We are extremely pleased with the high level of commitment from our partners and the expertise they bring to our newest endeavor." Mr. Robert "Bo" Bynum, President of the Palmdale School District Board of Trustees expressed, "I think we have a capable and professional group ready and equipped to take on the work of this inaugural effort." Once complete, the academy's board will also have a parent and private sector director.

According to the vision of the academy, "core academic concepts will come to life through application relevant to aerospace." Challenging projects and hands on learning experiences with technical themes, inspired by the same spirit of exploration which has fueled the triumphs of our local aerospace industry, will prepare students for success in college and careers in science, mathematics, engineering and technology. The Palmdale Aerospace Academy is slated to open in August of 2012.

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