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Laying the Foundation Announces Keynote Speaker for Educator Conference in Houston

DALLAS, TEXAS – Laying the Foundation (LTF), a nonprofit organization that provides content-focused teacher training and classroom resources, announced the keynote speaker today for its upcoming One-Day Educator Conference at J. Frank Dobie High School in Houston, Texas. The October 1st Conference is designed for 6th-12th grade English, mathematics, science, social studies, art history/studio, and music theory teachers with the goal of providing strategies for building a college-ready environment in their schools. Registration may be accessed through www.lftftraining.org.

The conference will feature NASA Astronaut Alvin Drew, who will speak about his experiences as an engineer, the importance of STEM education, and his missions in space. He has degrees in physics, aeronautical engineering, aerospace science, and strategic studies in political science. For NASA, he has logged more than 612 hours in space while flying over 10 million miles. He has also served as the Director of Operations at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Russia.

The conference includes over 50 workshops that will provide teachers with content knowledge, strategies, and classroom-ready lessons on topics of interest they select. Teachers will leave the conference with materials and strategies that they can use immediately in their classes to implement rigorous state and national standards.

LTF has worked with NASA's Human Research Program Education Outreach (HRPEO) project to provide teachers state-of-the-art math and science lessons that incorporate data from NASA space missions and LTF instructional strategies, and utilize the TI-Nspire for data analysis. These lessons provide another tool that teachers can use to get their students excited about science and to understand the critical need for math expertise.

"You cannot fix the college readiness gap or improve STEM education without great teachers with the right resources," said Dave Saba, CEO of Laying the Foundation. "Col. Drew will lead the way toward inspiring our teachers to challenge their students to become tomorrow's scientists and engineers."

About Laying the Foundation

Laying the Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to providing the best content-based, pedagogy-driven, teacher-to-teacher training, supported by rigorous classroom-ready lessons and web-based resources to improve the quality of English, mathematics, and science instruction. LTF has trained over 34,000 teachers to date and has demonstrated dramatic increases in Advanced Placement exam participation and success in STEM subjects. LTF believes that training, mentoring, and empowering the teacher corps will lead to high standards of academic excellence for all students.

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