

**Challenge Charter School's *Celestial Phoenix* Team rises to the challenge!
CCS takes first place during the December 7th, 2011 Semi—Finals for the
Honeywell Fiesta Bowl Aerospace Challenge and they move on to the finals!**

The CCS 6th grade Aerospace Team selected the name *Celestial Phoenix* which turned out to be a perfect fit as they rose to the *challenge* during the Honeywell Fiesta Bowl Aerospace Challenge Semi-Finals placing first in that day's competition.

Celestial Phoenix includes: Richard (Laurie) Cox, Emmerson Dillard, Patrick Kontz, Cavan Lopez, and Colten Warnock, with Ms. Meghan Sheehan as their Coach. Mr. Miller also provided support during the design of their lunar habitat and the team had tremendous support from their parents whose volunteer time was greatly appreciated!

Celestial Phoenix had big shoes to fill! They are only the second team to ever compete from Challenge Charter School. Challenge's first team, NASA's Newest, won the competition. As the 2009 Champions, they took a VIP trip to NASA in Houston and were featured on the field during the 39th Annual Fiesta Bowl. Two of the previous winning team members: Joleen Shiroma and Jake Garza came to this year's Semi-Finals to cheer on *Celestial Phoenix* and show their support. Good to see you! http://www.glendaledailyplanet.com/fiesta_bowl_2010.htm (scroll down page for story)

NASA's Newest team slogan: "Last time the Eagle was just a guest, now it's back to build its nest." ...blazed the path for the truly sensational *Celestial Phoenix* whose slogan says it all: "The Phoenix is rising to the *challenge*!" They have their own unique and remarkable team spirit and admirable dedication and persistence.

They made us all very proud with their citizenship and how much respect they showed for the competition. The Fiesta Bowl chairperson and the maintenance staff at ASU West (where the competition was held), both complimented them on their behavior and the way they composed themselves during the event.

They were judged for seven hours, being asked very challenging questions by eight different groups of Honeywell engineers. Despite the demanding schedule, the team was tireless in their energy and never allowed their nerves to show. Instead, they glowed with enthusiasm ready to share all their hard work and team collaboration with the judges.

The Honeywell Aerospace mission is to develop and build a physical scale model for an International Lunar Base. Teams must consider all of the details and then defend their choices for their location on the moon, how they will transport the base and get around in space, and how they will sustain life on the moon.

Celestial Phoenix carefully deliberated each detail resulting in a multicultural base with everything needed to keep the astronauts safe and entertained while in space. They put in lots of extra time after school and on the weekends, unwilling to quit until they had considered all options and were confident that they had made the right choices for sustaining life on the moon, such as production of their own food and a complete recycling program.

The competition included approximately 250 teams comprised of over 900 5th – 8th grade students during the three days of Semi-Finals. *Celestial Phoenix*, is one of only 6 teams statewide that will move on to compete in the finals December 29th at the Challenger Space Center. As finalists, they will also enjoy an exclusive opportunity to spend time with NASA astronauts.

Congratulations and thank you to an incredible Team and to their families for all of their help and support! Thank you Coach Sheehan for empowering them to take it to the next level! GO EAGLES!!

For more information on this prestigious academic competition visit:

<http://www.fiestabowl.org/events/aerospace-challenge.php>

A special THANK YOU to the sponsors of this event: Honeywell, Microsoft Mission Control, Challenger Space center, Sapphire Catering, ASU West

“We are so excited for our kids! Their hard work has made us so proud! – Mr. & Mrs. Miller, CCS Founders

“I am so honored to have the opportunity to coach a group of such motivated individuals who think critically and outside the box!” – Ms. Megan Sheehan, Aerospace Coach & 6th grade CCS Teacher

