Orange County Department of Education

NEWS RELEASE

Al Mijares, Ph.D. County Superintendent of Schools 200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa, <u>CA 92626</u>



Contact: Ian Hanigan 714-966-4008 communications@ocde.us

Media alert: OC Pathways Showcase to highlight college and career partnerships Event will feature student projects and an interview with Virgin Galactic representatives

COSTA MESA, Calif. – Educators and industry leaders will engage with hundreds of students exhibiting projects related to engineering/advanced manufacturing, healthcare/biotechnology and information and communication technology/digital media during the second annual OC Pathways Showcase on Wednesday, Nov. 30. The event will also feature an interview with Virgin Galactic Vice President of Program Development Tim Buzza and Propulsion Engineer Nicole Lewis.

Approximately 400 guests are expected to attend the second annual showcase, which will be held from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the Marconi Automotive Museum in Tustin. The theme is "The Ultimate Road Trip."

Buzza is responsible for managing the development and operation of Virgin Galactic's LauncherOne satellite launch vehicle. In addition to his appearance with Lewis, attendees will hear from the creators of the PBS documentary series "Roadtrip Nation," who have traveled the world to learn how individuals transform their passions into careers.

WHAT: The second annual OC Pathways Showcase

WHEN: 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2016

WHERE: Marconi Automotive Museum, 1302 Industrial Drive, Tustin

WHO: Virgin Galactic Vice President of Program Development Tim Buzza; Virgin

Galactic Propulsion Engineer Nicole Lewis; the creators of the PBS documentary series "Roadtrip Nation"; Orange County Superintendent of Schools Al Mijares,

Ph.D.; Saddleback College President Tod A. Burnett, Ed.D.

CONTACT: lan Hanigan at ihanigan@ocde.us or 714-966-4008

About OC Pathways

OC Pathways connects educators and industry leaders to equip students for college and career success. Partners develop coursework that combines rigorous academics with career preparation in

such target sectors as health care/biotechnology, engineering/advanced manufacturing and information and communication technology/digital media. This countywide project also creates work-based learning opportunities for students and empowers educators with 21st-century learning strategies.

Led by the Orange County Department of Education and Saddleback College, OC Pathways was initiated through a 2014 grant from the California Department of Education. The collaborative now comprises 14 school districts, nine community colleges, multiple universities, numerous regional agencies and scores of industry and community partners working together to prepare Orange County students for high-demand, high-skill and high-wage careers.