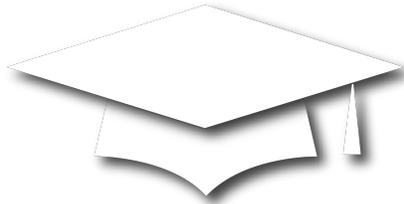




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## NEWS RELEASE



K20associates

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Sierra Preparatory Academy students first in USA to fly innovative SpaceShipOne gliders on April 30<sup>th</sup> in collaboration with K20associates, Pitsco Education, Jeff Rutan and Rocket Science Tutors (RST).***

WESTMINSTER, Calif. - (April 15, 2013) – *Rocket Science Tutors*, a non-profit organization comprised of engineers dedicated to advancing STEM skills in schools, has teamed up with *K20associates*, Pitsco Education, Jeff Rutan and Sierra Preparatory Academy to inspire students by bringing the innovation and excitement of private space flight to the school on Tuesday, April 30, 2013.

Students will build glider models of legendary aerospace designer Burt Rutan's suborbital spaceplane that achieved the first manned private spaceflight and won the \$10 Million *Ansari X-Prize* in 2004. The original *SpaceShipOne* (a Paul G. Allen project), along with the Rutan *Voyager*, now hangs in the *Milestones of Flight* exhibit at the *Smithsonian Air and Space Museum* in Washington, D.C. Burt Rutan's groundbreaking work has contributed to many aviation initiatives as well as to current private space initiatives such as Virgin Galactic (<http://www.virgingalactic.com>), Stratolaunch Systems (<http://www.stratolaunch.com>).

Jeff Rutan, designer of the 1/40 Scale foam glider model, will join the event as well. After school RST classes are voluntary and develop a wide range of engineering and science skills among the intermediate school age students.

“RST is extremely excited to be selected to work with Jeff Rutan, *K20associates* and Pitsco Education to inspire Sierra students through the physics of flight, “ said Nino Polizzi, CEO and founder of *Rocket Science Tutors*. **“Sierra Preparatory Academy will be the first middle school in the nation to integrate these innovative gliders in Space-specific STEM lessons developed by RST.”**

“This decade will be marked by incredible innovation and achievement in the area of Entrepreneurial Space, and we intend to inspire and engage students to explore college and career opportunities related to this historical moment,” said Jeff Rutan.

Schools or volunteers interested in participating with RST should call 949.289.4772 or visit their website at <http://www.rocketsciencetutors.com>. Interested educators can also find out more by visiting [www.k20associates.com](http://www.k20associates.com) and Jeff Rutan's AeroSpace Bricker at [www.asbricker.com](http://www.asbricker.com)

*Rocket Science Tutors*, located in Westminster, California, is a 501-c-3 not for profit organization that brings science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) to life by exciting middle and high school students with real-world examples, hands-on labs and an inquiry-based curriculum in a project based learning environment. Students build experiments, use math skills to calculate the outcome, measure performance and compare results, reinforcing the math/science link and providing the thrill of “making something.” This RST-developed program works in conjunction with the Santa Ana Unified School District and is administered by an all-volunteer cadre of highly skilled engineers and engineering graduate students who facilitate hands-on, project-based activities in small groups (typically one instructor to every five students). *Rocket Science Tutors* is comprised of a board of directors and an advisory board that meets monthly and is funded by local and national organizations.

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