

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[April 21, 2015]

CONTACT:

Christine Thompson, Program Manager  
spacegrant@carthage.edu  
262-551-6054



## **National Rocket Competition Unique to Wisconsin**

KENOSHA, Wis. – Wisconsin Space Grant Consortium will host the nation’s largest High-Powered Rocket Competition for Native American college students on Saturday, May 2 at Richard Bong Recreational Area in Kansasville, WI. Students from 13 schools, 19 teams, and 10 states will converge on the Carthage College campus in Kenosha, WI, April 30 – May 2 to present their rocket design projects, participate in motor building and altimeter programming workshops, and prepare to launch their high-powered rocket.

Returning to this year’s competition is Northwest Indian College (NWIC) from Bellingham, WA. Last year, at the 2014 WSGC First Nations Launch competition, the NWIC team became the first Native American team to break Mach 1 with the high-powered rocket, “Machness 1. The record-breaking rocket will be displayed at the Smithsonian Institute’s National Museum of the American Indian on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.. NWIC will compete in all three First Nations competition launches: Tribal, AISES, and Two-Stage Challenge. Top performing teams will be invited to tour launch facilities at the Kennedy Space Center in summer 2015.

Emmy-award winner, Lars Ullberg of Applied Creative Training, will film the First Nations Launch event for an upcoming promotional video. Highlighted in the 6-minute video will be Wisconsin’s College of Menominee Nation from Keshena, WI, which is fielding an eleven-person team for this year’s Tribal Launch.

The First Nations Launch is a collaboration between NASA’s Kennedy Space Center (KSC), National Space Grant Foundation, and Wisconsin Space Grant Consortium. Judging this year’s competition is James Wood, KSC Launch Services Program Chief Engineer; Dr. Jeff Leisner, VibeTech, Inc. Founder and CTO; and Karen Broitzman, Wisconsin Department of Transportation Aviation Education Program Manager. The Wisconsin Tripoli Prefecture provides the chief safety official for the event. Also participating in the weekend events will be the WSGC Collegiate Rocket Competition. This event is open to Wisconsin Space Grant Consortium Academic Affiliate members and led by WSGC Associate Director, Dr. William Farrow, Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE). Eleven teams from eight schools will participate in the competition: Marquette University, MSOE, Ripon College, UW-Madison, UW-

Milwaukee, UW-Platteville, UW-River Falls, and UW-Washington County. Winning engineering and non-engineering teams will move onto the 2014-2015 Space Grant Midwest High-Power Rocketry Competition sponsored by Minnesota Space Grant Consortium in North Branch, MN.

# # #

**About WSGC:** *The Wisconsin Space Grant Consortium (WSGC) is part of a national network of consortia funded by NASA's National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program. Congress established the program in 1988 to contribute to the nation's scientific enterprise through research, education, and public service projects.*

**About Carthage College:** *Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin, has been the lead institution for WSGC since August 2014. Carthage is a four-year, private liberal arts college with roots in the Lutheran tradition, combining an environment of reflection and self-discovery with a culture of high expectation so students uncover and ignite their true potential.*