

For Immediate Release
March 3, 2020

WEX FOUNDATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MARS ACADEMY USA PROUDLY PRESENTS

SPACE MEDICINE SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM

What: Summer Space Camp Simulating Lunar-Mars Planetary Surface and Cave Exploration with Space Medicine Simulation Training Contingencies

When: July and August 2020

Who: High School Students Class of 2021-2024

Students will be offered a hands-on, simulated planetary exploration real-time experience focusing on space medicine, using terrestrial Texas caves as analogs to lava tube caves located on Mars and on the Moon such as the Moon's Marius Hills Skylight, which NASA has identified as a potential location for human habitation supporting lunar exploration.

WEX Foundation in partnership with Mars Academy USA (MAU) a pioneering organization and a leader in offering Next Gen students, researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs real-time *"experiential learning with exponential technologies"*, will offer the first **DUAL HABITATION BASECAMPS** training simulations for high school Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) students. Weekly missions will comprise of 6 to 8 students per basecamp who will simulate two crews working together during the *"Station-to-Station"* MARS MEDICS Training Program. Each basecamp will communicate with each other by walkie-talkie, conduct applied medical space science research, including research and development (R&D) integration of exponential technologies, and simulate an astronaut medical emergency during their analog "planetary-surface" EVAs (Extra-Vehicular Activities) and cave explorations. Students will analyze their findings at the conclusion of their week at camp. Each week a new cohort of students will "hand-over" the basecamps using crew rotation protocols. Students will camp out in a planetary simulation at a remote location wearing analog simulation spacesuits and eating freeze-dried and dehydrated food with experienced analog astronaut trainers. The weekly camps will be grouped according to high school level.

Lead organization, **WEX Foundation**, located in the San Antonio Museum of Science and Technology (SAMSAT) at Port San Antonio, will partner with **CAST Med High School**, and with the highly experienced space medicine training organization, **Mars Academy USA (MAU)** based in California USA, who will offer students an immersive STEAM-based introduction to the medical aspects of space exploration and its importance for ensuring health and safety for astronauts.

Student participants will be actively recruited from the sophomore cohort of the newly inaugurated (2019) CAST Med High School (an SAISD school), from student cohorts in WEX Foundation's NASA-funded Lunar Caves Analog Test Sites (LCATS) program, and from Prefreshman Engineering Program (PREP) student cohorts across San Antonio school districts. However, any interested student meeting the qualifications is encouraged to apply.

Applications for this highly competitive tuition-based program will open during the latter part of March and selected students will be notified in May2020. For expressions of interest to enroll in the program please fill out the online [Space Medicine Summer Camp Interest Form](#).

ABOUT WEX FOUNDATION

The WEX Foundation (WEX) was established to promote, encourage and support the convergence of technology and education as applied to new visions for human space exploration and its long-term implications for the educational development of the nation's next generation of scientist, engineers, mathematicians and technologists, beginning with K-12 education. Its focus is to promote science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education for K-12 curriculum development; improving STEM teaching and student comprehension in school districts and areas where students have been traditionally under-served and under-represented in institutions of higher education; to prepare and encourage low-income, first-generation college-bound students to pursue higher education and careers in human space exploration.

About WEX Foundation's LCATS Program: The WEX Foundation advances careers in space, inspiring our youth to become a STEM educated workforce in our community. Cave exploration science is being used by NASA and our education program to simulate the conditions of lunar lava tube caves in conducting research for the eventual human habitation of the Moon and Mars. LCATS students come from over 10 school districts in San Antonio, especially targeting students with financial need. Over half of our "Junior NASA Consultants" are girls!

For more information contact:

WEX Foundation at: info@wexfoundation.org www.wexfoundation.org

ABOUT MAU MARS MEDICS MISSIONS

Mars Academy USA (MAU) Mars Medics (MMM) Analog Astronaut Simulation Training missions focuses on space medicine, biomedical and biotechnology innovations. Mission crews enter fully "in-person" immersive simulations living and working together in a transdisciplinary, multicultural analog Mars environment in MAU's mobile, modular Mars Basecamps. The missions are specifically focused on innovations for explorations in space medicine, astro-wellness, space food production and nutrition. The crews will test, develop and innovate ways to support future human explorations and settlement on Mars and Moon. The crews will test design and integrate exponential technologies, such as, VRAR, 3D printing, genetic tools (i.e. CRISPR kits), telemedicine / telehealth technologies, robotics, autonomous and drones.

ABOUT MARS ACADEMY USA, LLC

Mars Academy USA (MAU) is the 21st Century Academy creating a new paradigm in learning using exponential technologies, simulation-based learning, and edutainment. MAU is an organization with a mission to train the Next-Gen Analog Astronauts, Visionaries, Innovators, Scientists, Explorers, and Astropreneurs. Since 2016, MAU has been developing, testing, and implementing a patent-pending commercial "Portable Integrated Turn-key Analog Astronautics Simulation Training System™" and creating a unique "Let's get S.T.E.A.M.E.D™" (Science, Technologies, Engineering, Art/Astropreneuer, Maths, Exponential, Digital VRAR/MR) workshops and programs focusing on exponential technologies, such as, teleanesthesia-telesurgery, VRAR/MR, Solar powered 3D-Printing, and *Mars Medics Training Program*. The company offers their unique "space-focused" programs to academia, commercial and corporate markets, and general public. The mission of the organization is to educate, empower, entertain, engage, and expand an international, global "voice" in support of human space explorations, technological innovations to enable future settlement on off-world planets, such as, Mars and Moon, with a direct focus in spin-off "benefits" for improving life on Earth.

For more information about Mars Academy USA (MAU):

Visit: www.marsacademyusa.com

Contact: training@marsacademyusa.com