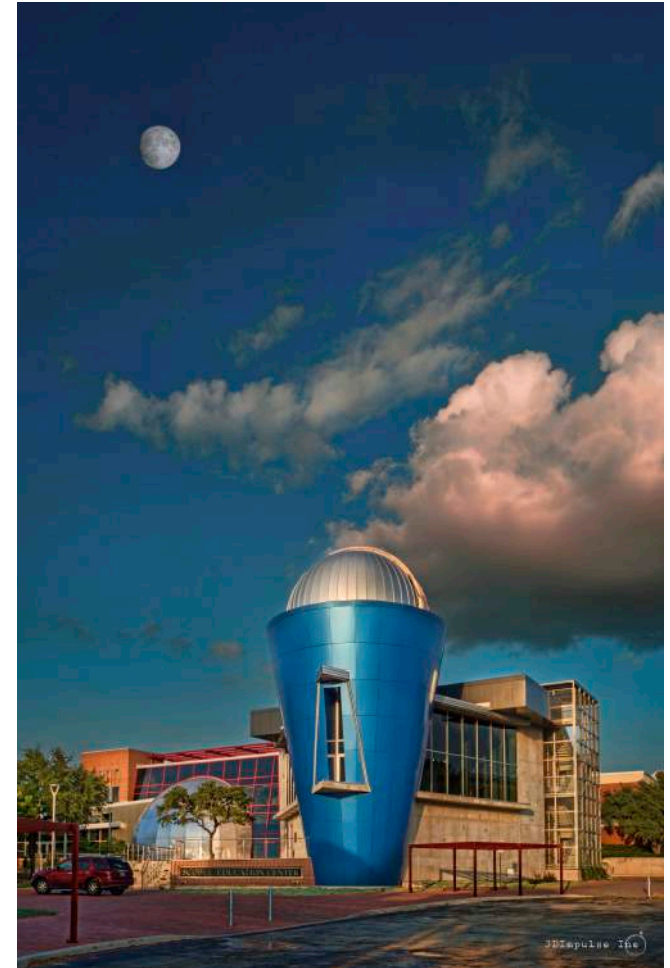


Scobee Education Center Media Highlights

Executive Summary

San Antonio College celebrated the opening of the Scobee Education Center on Friday, October 31. The state-of-the-art 22,000 square foot facility combines the Scobee Planetarium with a first-of-its-kind, next generation Challenger Learning Center.

The grand opening featured a speaking program, ribbon cutting ceremony and an open house. Local media had the opportunity for a behind-the-scenes tour of the center on Wednesday prior to the grand opening. The grand opening was also celebrated with a public open house on Saturday, November 1. The open house featured walking tours, planetarium shows and an evening star party, all free and open to the public.



amant@specsys-news.net
Tel: 01442 254 110 Fax: 01442 254 111

Print/Online

San Antonio Express-News

Digital Dish

S.A. Tweet Star of the Week: @SAC_Scobe: Let the stars shine brighter at SAC. The Scobee Education Center at San Antonio College officially opens its doors to the cosmos with a grand opening Friday and open house Saturday. And by the heavens, that's plenty good reason to check out the new space and science center on Twitter via @SAC_Scobe.

Besides, there's so much more to see and tweet. The Scobee Education Center now boasts a remodeled planetarium and observatory, as well as the new Challenger Learning Center for even more serious and seriously fun learning.

Friday's ribbon cutting kicks off at 9 a.m., while Saturday's open house runs from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. with planetarium shows, walking tours and a star party. Both days' events are free and open to the public. Stellar.



Scobee Education Center opens



EDMOND ORTIZ / ALAMO HEIGHTS WEE

1 of 16 >

Dignitaries join June Scobee Rodgers (center) in cutting the ribbon to San Antonio College's new Scobee Education Center at the facility's grand opening Friday, Oct. 31. Rodgers is the widow of Francis "Dick" Scobee, one of seven who died in the 1986 Challenger shuttle explosion.



View All Thumbnails

Print/Online



Redesigned Challenger Learning Center opens



1 of 3

Photo By Bob Owen / San Antonio Express-News

Gallie Granato, a seventh grader at Scobee Middle School, watches a film in the remodeled Scobee Planetarium during the Scobee Education Center grand opening at San Antonio College.



Bob Kelley remembers visiting the San Antonio College's then-new planetarium as a youngster in the 1960s.

The fact that humans were launching into space, opening up a new era in scientific exploration, inspired Kelley to pursue astronomy.

As the longtime coordinator of the SAC planetarium, a new era has begun for Kelley and his colleagues on campus.

Renovations on the planetarium have been completed as part of the **Scobee Education Center**, a facility offering hands-on science lessons thanks to a redesigned **Challenger Learning Center**, relocated from Brooks City-Base.

The planetarium provides enhanced shows with state-of-the-art technology. The observatory and telescope have been relocated to atop a three-story, rocket-shaped structure with a star deck.

Larger and more interactive than its predecessor at Brooks, SAC's Challenger Learning Center is the first to feature a new design among the 43 other GLCs around the nation and abroad.

College officials, special guests and community supporters gathered on campus Friday, Oct. 31, to celebrate the facility's grand opening.

"It's been a great first 50 years. We're excited to launch the planetarium into its next 50 years," Kelley said.

Using the planetarium's original footprint, the Scobee Center took more than two years to build, funded by tax notes allocated by Alamo Colleges.

In a ribbon-cutting ceremony, SAC President Dr. **Robert Vela** said a group raising funds to make the facility financially self-sustaining has just reached its \$5 million goal.

The Challenger Center is a mission simulator, with a layout designed to help visitors to feel like they're really going on a space mission.

There are rooms for pre- and post-flight briefing, mission control, ground transport, a decontamination room, and a simulated launch, re-entry and docking with the **International Space Station**.

Then there's the space station replica, where various lessons take place.

Brandon Bobinski, education manager for the **Challenger Center for Space Science Education**, said the lessons, using custom software and real data from NASA, are designed to inspire students and teachers to fully engage Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) curriculum.

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- > **Man charged in sex assault of girlfriend's children**
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SAC launches new educational era

PHOTOS: Scobee Planetarium Opening



Photo By Edmond Ortiz / Alamo Heights Weekly
Visitors on a mission at San Antonio College's new Scobee Education Center get to experience, from an astronaut's point of view, how it feels and sounds during a launch.

Bob Kelley remembers visiting **San Antonio College's** then-new planetarium as a youngster in the 1960s. Humans launching into space, opening up a new era in scientific exploration, inspired Kelley to pursue astronomy.

As the longtime coordinator of the SAC planetarium, a new era has begun for Kelley and his colleagues on campus.

Planetarium renovations have ended as part of the **Scobee Education Center**, a new facility that offers hands-on science lessons thanks to a redesigned **Challenger Learning Center**, relocated from Brooks City-Base.

The planetarium provides enhanced shows with state-of-the-art technology. The observatory and telescope are relocated to atop a three-story, rocket-shaped structure with a star deck.

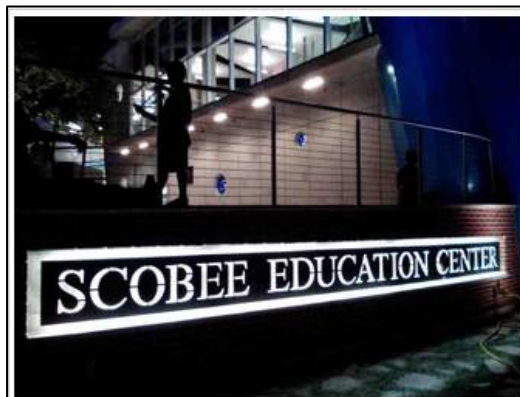
MORE INFORMATION

<http://tinyurl.com/6z2fxx>
<http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local/community/heights/slideshow/Scobee-Education-Center-opens-96954.php>

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Scobee Planetarium

Festivities abound last week at San Antonio College as officials, political leaders, former astronauts and community members came together to celebrate the opening of the Scobee Education Center. Built around the footprint of a 50-plus-year-old campus planetarium, the three-story Scobee Center has plenty of natural lighting and a futuristic exterior. Alamo Colleges allocated \$5 million in tax notes more than two years ago for development of a facility that would provide the public, schools and other organizations hands-on space science lessons. A capital campaign group has just reached its goal of raising \$5 million to help make the Scobee Center fiscally self-sustaining. After being closed for two years, the newly renovated planetarium has enhanced programs with state-of-the-art technology. SAC relocated the observatory and telescope, previously street level, to the top of a rocket-shaped structure with a star deck. Then there's the Challenger Learning Center, which first arrived in San Antonio at Brooks City Base more than 10 years ago. Now the national nonprofit that develops Challenger Learning Centers has come up with a redesign and San Antonio is the first in the nation to have a redesigned CLC. The layout is larger, more state-of-the-art and offers more interactive lessons meant to inspire young students and teachers about Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) curriculum. The Challenger Center provides a simulated mission with rooms for pre- and post-flight briefing, mission control, ground transport, a decontamination room, and a simulated launch, reentry, and a docking with the International Space Station. There is also a space station replica, where various lessons using custom software and real NASA data take place. On average it can cost a visiting group \$500 to undergo a whole mission, which takes two and a half hours.

Print/Online

SAN ANTONIO BUSINESS JOURNAL

San Antonio College's Scobee Education Center is ready for take-off



Susan Saporito
Managing Editor-
San Antonio Business
Journal
Email | Twitter |
Google+ | LinkedIn

It's all systems go at San Antonio College with the grand opening of the college's Scobee Education Center set for this Friday.

"We are thrilled to finally open the Scobee Education Center," said Robert Vela, San Antonio College president. He added that with the addition of the center, SAC is poised to become the hub for space and science education throughout South Texas.

The Scobee Education Center is a state-of-the-art 22,000-square-foot facility, combining the Scobee Planetarium with the world's newest Challenger Learning Center. The project, which broke ground in May 2012, included extensive remodeling and expansion of the Scobee Planetarium and Observatory, which has been a San Antonio College staple for more than 50 years.

The core of the Challenger Learning Center is an interactive computerized simulator with a Mission Control room and an orbiting Space Station. The facility gives students an opportunity to become astronauts and engineers through space simulation and role playing.

To utilize the center, teachers from school districts across San Antonio meet with their designated district science coordinators. Those coordinators then contact the center to set up a visit. Teachers visit in advance to prepare for their students' space missions.



Susan Saporito / San Antonio Business Journal

Coordinators discuss the features of Mission Control Center at the new Scobee Education Center at San Antonio College.



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When I was growing up, a lot of kids wanted to be astronauts. They were celebrities floating between the stars and the moon. They were household names.

Now, in the twilight of manned space expedition, the task falls to educators to spark the imagination of tomorrow's space explorers. Explorers who will be using an array of technological equipment as they pilot unmanned satellites and rovers.

While the romanticized era of astronauts walking on the moon might be at a close, space science is alive and well. Especially here in San Antonio, when the San Antonio College Scobee Education Center will reopen its doors on Oct. 31.

Housed in the Scobee Education Center is the Challenger Learning Center, a national hands-on science program that hosts elementary, middle, and high school students. Its mission: seeing to it that the sciences continue to capture the imagination and inspire students to pursue STEM-related fields.

"There are so many important things that come out of the space program, even though we are not sending humans into space," said Lisa Vernal, director of communications for the Challenger Center for Space Science.



Bekah McNeel, space enthusiast.
Courtesy photo.

Print/Online



Scobee Education Center, Challenger Learning Center to open Friday



By **Eileen Gonzales**
Reporter

SAN ANTONIO - The new and improved Scobee Education Center at San Antonio College is set to open its doors this Friday.

The \$12 million project features a revamped planetarium, a small science museum and the newly added **Challenger Learning Center**.

While a journey to the stars can be experienced in the **Scobee Planetarium** or through a telescope on the stardeck, the Challenger Learning Center takes things even further

"The kids walk through the door and it's a different type of experience," said Robert Piercy, vice president of education for the Challenger Center for Space Science

The center, geared towards middle school-aged students, will provide field trips to remember. Students learn about the program with special curricula at their schools.

RELATED CONTENT

More development coming to SAC

Scobee Planetarium renovations begin



Scobee Grand Opening



Dr. Jane Scobee Rodgers signs copies of "Star Challenges: Space Station Crisis" for chair students from McArthur, McHale and Scobee middle schools after the VP grand opening Friday of Scobee Education Center. Scobee Rodgers contributed to the book written by Rebecca Wenzel and Kevin J. Anderson. *E. David Best*



Megan Stanley and Robertah Corley, a former Palo Alto College student take a "selfie" with a display dedicated last Oct. 31 in the lobby of the Scobee Education Center. *Art Gonzalez*

Scobee Education Center opens to crowds, memorials

Local dignitaries and city leaders turn out to see the new facility.

By Linda Free
for thesanantonio.com

As this college's brain trust gathered for the national address Friday to the Scobee Education Center's memorial garden, Scobee Elementary School students played seven musical notes outside the center's entrance to honor Challenger crew members who died when the space shuttle exploded Jan. 28, 1986.

"We can draw strength from their courage," U.S. Rep. Lamar Smith said in his opening remarks at the grand opening of the center after two years of planning and development.

The center is named for Lt. Col. Francis "Dick" Scobee, the Challenger's commander and a former student of this college. It is home to the Challenger Learning Center, the Scobee Planetarium and a main gallery, soon to be named after a donor.

Scobee's widow, Dr. Jane Scobee Rodgers, attended the ceremony, along with son Richard Scobee and daughter Kathie Scobee Rodgers.

"Dick Scobee would truly be over the moon about the opportunity Challenger Center offers to students, and proud that it continues the mission for his Challenger crew," Rodgers said. "He was a modest man, always giving, without any fanfare."

The 18-foot mission included Dr. W. Michael Bowers, vice president and Orion program manager at Lockheed Martin, who served as Mission Control as payload officer in charge of deploying satellites.

Bowers said the mission was "made up of a fantastic crew" which also included Ellison Onizuka, Gregory B. Bessert, Michael J. Smith and Ronald McNair.

Onizuka in the mission was Christa McAuliffe, a school teacher scheduled to transmit lessons from space.

Facilities like the Scobee Education Center will serve to feed the interests of students in space, science and astronomy, Llover said.

"We need that future work force. It's not the kids. It's the people using them, that put us to space," Llover said.

As a former teacher, Rodgers said she was glad to see so many people taking an interest in space exploration.

"STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) is about creativity. This country needs smart people to accept new challenges," Collins said.

In 1985, Collins became the first female to pilot a space shuttle.

Dr. Robert Vela, president of this college, said, "We had a lot of national figures taking part in the grand opening, and we're proud to have them participate."

The ceremony ended with Vela, Scobee Rodgers and Charles Chace Jr. joining hands to cut the ceremonial ribbon, allowing about 200 guests to explore the facilities.

In the main gallery, visitors signed a Mark III photo card, a replication of a Russian space suit. Guests can open the backpack of the suit and see the flight plan.

The gallery also includes a display of the Challenger's exterior, such as the foam insulation that stuck the wing, causing it to be ignited as it entered the atmosphere Feb. 1, 2003.

The Shuttle Learning Center consists of Mission Control, where students on field trips can work in teams as "astronauts" in the space station. The students first enter a simulator to understand their mission and then are transported through a flight simulator before they start the mission.

The Sim, a students from Ed White Middle School will be the first to go on a space mission.

"Most of all, he would be pleased to know that the Scobee Education Center will help make a difference," she said.

Andrew Hubbard, former president of the Student Government Association, said Rodgers "brought the human element to the building."

"She reminded us of the importance of perseverance and pushing forward," he said.

The planetarium will have three shows Nov. 7, 14 and 21. "Secrets of the Constellation Rocket" at 8 p.m. for ages 4 and older. "The Sky Struggle" at 7:30 p.m. and "Black Hole" at 9 p.m., both for ages 6 and older.

Admission for each show is \$2 with an Alamo College ID. \$4 for seniors, \$1 for adults 18 and older and \$4 for children ages 4 to 17.

For more information, call the center at 238-0800.



Fifth grade Sofia Lydon, 10, illuminates the birth of classroom Shadya Wade, 10, using a temperature reader gun with her hand in a glove box in the space station during the VP grand opening of Scobee Education Center Friday. Students from Scobee Elementary were selected for a field trip to the center. *E. David Best*



Mark Harrison, 18, board member, watches teachers, parents and students of Scobee Elementary experience the Transporter 2 mission simulator Oct. 31 in the Challenger Center during the grand opening of the Scobee Education Center. The simulator features authentic take off footage and vibrating seats for a realistic space launch. *Milton Jett*

the ranger

Scobee Education Center's mosaic windows combine art, science



Orion designed and created by Bob Kelley in a mosaic window at the Scobee Education Center. Kelley designed four mosaic windows each one showing the beauty of outer space. The final window will be installed Oct. 28. Kelley said the windows were created for his late wife. *Photo by Neven Jones*

Planetarium coordinator's designs inspired by his late wife.

By Landon Penn

sac-ranger@alamo.edu

In addition to the Challenger Center, planetarium and observatory, Scobee Education Center features several mosaic windows designed by planetarium Coordinator Bob Kelley.

The windows range in size from a wall clock to disco



Bob Kelley points to a comet flying through the sky today in a mosaic window he designed and

Scobee Education Center opens to crowds, memorials

BY THE RANGER ON NOVEMBER 4, 2014

PREMIERE



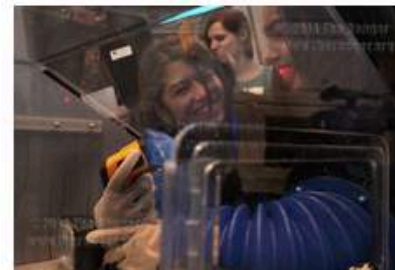
Officials cut a ribbon at the grand opening of Scobee Education Center Friday. From left are U.S. Rep. Lamar Smith; Dr. Robert Vela, president of this college; Dr. June Scobee Rodgers, Challenger Center founding chair; and Charles E. Cheever Jr., who with his son co-chaired the Challenger Learning Center capital campaign. *Photo by E. David Guel*

Local dignitaries and city leaders turn out to see the new facility.

By Landon Penn

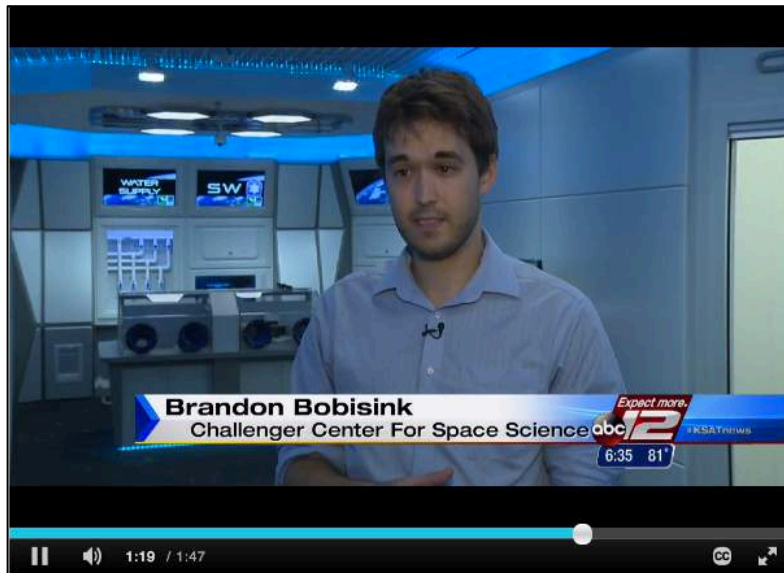
sac-ranger@alamo.edu

As this college's brass ensemble performed the national anthem Friday in the Scobee Education



Fifth grader Sofia Lynton, 10, illuminates the

Television



Television



Challenger Center's Grand Opening
San Antonio College

TOP STORIES

THE NUMBER OF FATALITIES AFTER A STUDENT OPENED

8:26



HAPPENING TODAY

EB Hwy. 90 from Loop 410 to I-35
9 minutes



6:46 66°



Challenger Center's Grand Opening
San Antonio College

TOP STORIES

ENAGERS WOUNDED IN A WASHINGTON STATE HIGH SC

8:26



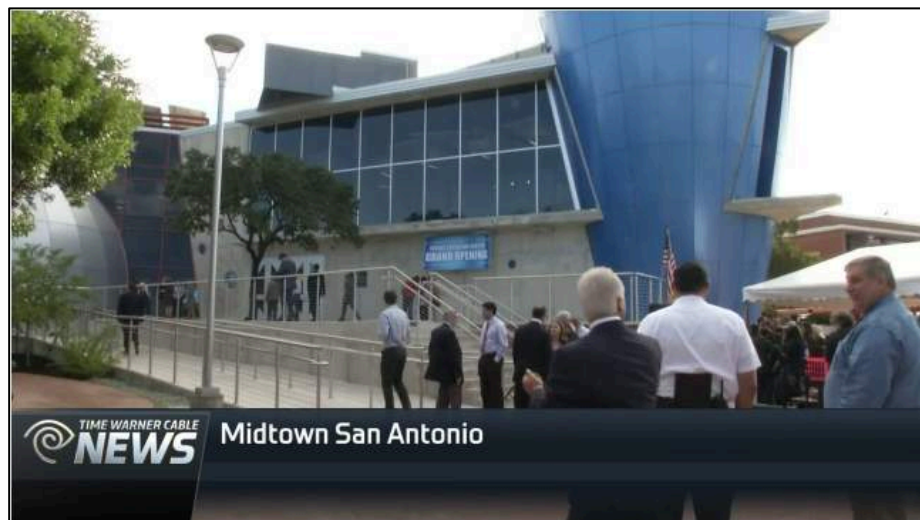
HAPPENING TODAY

7A 64 | 12P 71 | 5P 76



6:46 66°

Television



Television



Television



courtesy of psacard.com

03:20



02:54

HD



courtesy of esclakeeriewest.org

Radio



Space, That Final Frontier, Has Set Down in San Antonio

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By JOEY PALACIOS



Scobee Education Center
Joey Palacios



We're going into outer space for a moment. Well, it's really San Antonio College, but it isn't a bad deal — far from it. Two years ago, renovation began on the 50-year-old Scobee Planetarium, named for Dick Scobee, who died in the 1986 Challenger Disaster. In these two years, the simple domed planetarium has become a 22,000 square foot center for mock space exploration and stargazing.

What you're hearing is the beginning of that expedition. Rick Varner is the Director of the Center. "The Scobee Education Center is wrapped around the foundation that was the Scobee Planetarium, and now we'll have exhibits from Southwest Research Institute, we'll have the whole Challenger Learning Center experience," said Varner.

Inside the Challenger Learning Center, which used to be housed at Brooks City Base, students, ideally Grades 5-9, will go on simulated missions to the ISS to conduct their own experiments. Robert Piercey is vice president of education for all 40 Challenger Centers in the country. "So kids are now going up to the international space station and they have to build a satellite to re-launch it," Piercey explained. "So kids are getting hands-on opportunities to work with space age materials."



New Challenger Center at the Scobee Planetarium Opening Today

Recommend 0 Tweet + Share Permalink



Posted Friday, October 31st 2014 @ 10am by Berit Mason

The newly renovated SAC Scobee Planetarium and Challenger Learning Center are of a post modern design, ultra sleek glass structures that boast among other astronomy delights, a remodeled observatory with a \$25,000 telescope.

"We completely remodeled the theater. We have a larger projection dome, increased to 38 feet, we have a brand new lighting system and 100 new reclining seats," says the Scobee's Bob Kelley.

The public is invited to a weekend long, open house.


"We have free programs starting at 1pm on Friday, Halloween and on Saturday we have free planetarium shows and tours of the new Scobee Education Center," he says.

Visitors are welcomed to the planetarium that has 100 new reclining seats and an increased projection dome of 38 ft.

Saturday night there will be a star party on the lawn with free views through telescopes.


Social Media




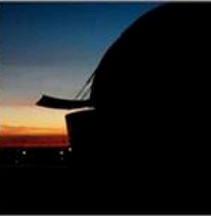

Scobee Education Center
 November 1

Scobee Education Center Grand Opening (4 photos)

Here's a selection of images from the Grand Opening Saturday at the Scobee Education Center. Photos by Bob Kelley



Photography by Bob Kelley

Like · Comment · Share

2 Shares

64 people like this.


San Antonio College
 Posted by Melissa Aguirre · November 1


Don't forget the Scobee Education Center's #OpenHouse is all day today. Come on over! For a full list of today's events click here: <http://www.alamo.edu/sac/ScobeeOpenHouse/>



1,218 people reached


Like · Comment · Share

Boost Post


Scobee Education Center
 November 1

Today's Grand Opening Schedule - Saturday, Nov. 1st

9:00am to 5:00pm -The Scobee Education Center will be open free of charge for tours of this wonderful new building. Planetarium Programs: 100 seats per program. First Come, First Served... See More



OPEN HOUSE
SCOBEE EDUCATION CENTER

TOURS & PLANETARIUM SHOWS:
 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.
STAR PARTY: 7:30 P.M. TO 10 P.M.

Secret of the Cardboard Rocket	9:30 A.M.
Secret Lives of Stars	11:00 A.M.
Attack of the Space Pirates	12:30 P.M.
Little Star that could	2:00 P.M.
Black Holes	3:30 P.M.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 1, 2014

For more information visit alamo.edu/sac/ScobeeOpenHouse

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40 people like this.

Social Media



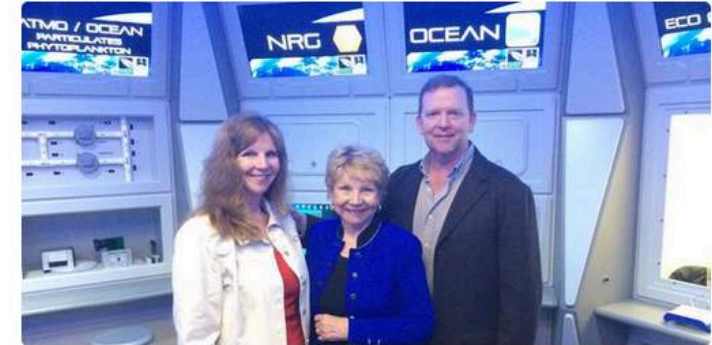
Lamar Smith @LamarSmithTX21 · Nov 3

Rep. Smith attended the Grand opening of the **Scobee Education Center** in San Antonio.



Challenger Center @ChallengerCtr · Oct 31

.@JScobeeRodgers and her children hanging out in the new Space Station at the @SAC_Scobee #scobeecenter #challenger



3 9



Northside ISD @NISD · Oct 31

Scobee ES students are participating in today's opening ceremony of the Scobee Education Center w/June Scobee Rodgers



3 5



Pete Gallego @RepPeteGallego



Follow

The @SAC_PR planetarium, Scobee Education Center, reopens this weekend after a two-year makeover. More: goo.gl/dXLJbH

3



SA Business Journal @SABizJournal · Oct 29

. @SAC_PR Scobee Education Center hosting open house. Stop by to see remodeled planetarium bizj.us/15p5cx @SABizJournal

1 1



KSAT 12 @ksatnews · Oct 29

Scobee Education Center, Challenger Learning Center to open Friday ksat.tv/13fE7Tm #KSATNews



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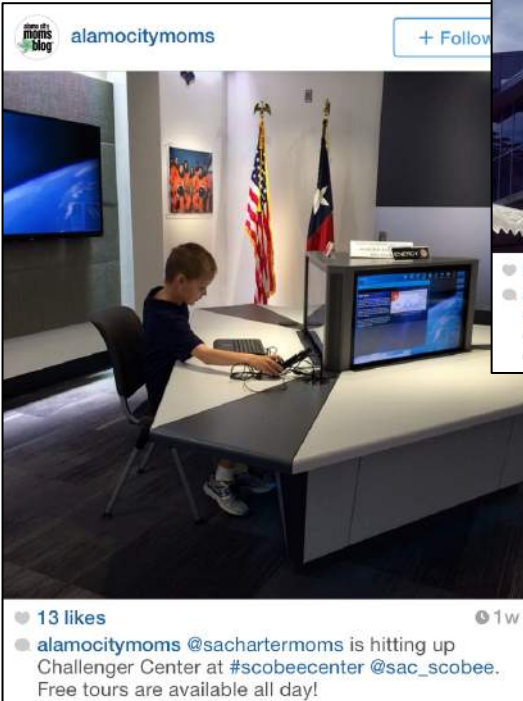
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13 likes
alamocitymoms @sachartermoms is hitting up Challenger Center at #scobeecenter @sac_scobee. Free tours are available all day!



42 likes
sanantoniocollege Mark your calendars for the #grandopening of the Scobee Education Center on October 31st!

Links

Revamped Planetarium to Reopen Friday at SAC – *San Antonio Express-News*

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/education/article/Its-makeover-complete-new-SAC-planetarium-to-5856374.php>

Digital Dish – *San Antonio Express-News*

<http://www.expressnews.com/lifestyle/article/Digital-Dish-5845873.php>

Scobee Education Center Opens (Slideshow) – *MySA.com*

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local/communities/alamo-heights/slideshow/Scobee-Education-Center-opens-96954.php>

Redesigned Challenger Learning Center Opens – *Southside Reporter (MySA.com)*

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local/communities/southside/article/Redesigned-Challenger-Learning-Center-opens-5867523.php>

SAC Launches New Educational Era – *Alamo Heights Weekly (MySA.com)*

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local/communities/alamo-heights/article/SAC-launches-new-educational-era-5868848.php>

Scobee Planetarium Opening – *Bexar Witness*

<http://bexarwitness.com/photos-scobee-planetarium-opening/#.VGTgE7yD6OY>

San Antonio College's Scobee Education Center is Ready for Take-Off – *San Antonio Business Journal*

<http://www.bizjournals.com/sanantonio/news/2014/10/29/san-antonio-college-s-scobee-education-center-is.html>

Training for Space Travel via Office Keyboards – *The Rivard Report*

<http://www.therivardreport.com/scobee-learning-center/>

Scobee Education Center, Challenger Learning Center to Open Friday – *KSAT*

<http://www.ksat.com/content/pns/ksat/news/2014/10/29/scobee-education-center--challenger-learning-center-to-open-frid.html>

The Scobee Education Center Opens its Doors – *San Antonio College Ranger*

<http://www.theranger.org/2014/10/27/the-scobee-education-center-opens-its-doors/>

Scobee Education Center Mosaic Windows Combine Art, Science – *The Ranger*

<http://www.theranger.org/2014/10/27/scobee-education-centers-mosaic-windows-combine-art-science/>

Scobee Education Center Opens to Crowds, Memorials – *San Antonio College Ranger*

<http://www.theranger.org/2014/11/04/scobee-education-center-opens-to-crowds-memorials/>

Good Morning San Antonio Weekend – *KSAT*

[Clip](#)

Happening Today – *WOAI*

[Clip](#)

Scobee Education Center Reopens – *Time Warner Cable News*

<http://sanantonio.twcnews.com/content/news/305851/scobee-education-center-reopens/>

Live Broadcast From Scobee Education Center – *Telemundo*

[Clip](#)

David Mrizek and the Scobee Education Center – *InTV*

Part One - <http://vimeo.com/109487167> ... Part Two - <http://vimeo.com/110251773>

Space, That Final Frontier, Has Set Down in San Antonio – *Texas Public Radio*

<http://tpr.org/post/space-final-frontier-has-set-down-san-antonio>

New Challenger Center at the Scobee Planetarium Opening Today – *1200 News Radio WOAI*

<http://www.woai.com/articles/woai-local-news-sponsored-by-five-119078/new-challenger-center-at-the-scobee-12921136/>