

## **An Opportunity for Elementary, Middle and High School Science Classes!**

USI engineering students are inviting elementary, middle or high school science classes to join in on an exciting project! The USI students and engineering faculty will launch another weather balloon with ten boxes of experiments attached to its tail on October 23, 2010. The balloon typically bursts after about an hour, the experiment boxes parachute to the ground and the USI group will use a GPS locator to find and recover the boxes. **One of the experiment boxes is being reserved for an elementary, middle or high school classroom to participate on a first-come, first served basis. If you're interested, read on!**

The teacher of the class selected to participate will be given an empty Styrofoam experiment box, at no cost, ready for flight. The teacher/students must commit to developing an experiment, to put it in the box and to make certain the box with the enclosed experiment is delivered to the engineering department at USI by noon Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, a little over a week before the flight. If you are interested in the students from one of your science classes participating, they will create their own experiment to be placed in the experiment box. Following recovery, the boxes will be returned to participating classrooms for post-flight analyses.

Directions for participation:

1. Brainstorm and plan your experiment with your students. (Examples and resources for experiments are at end of this message.)
  - The experiment needs to fit in a 4.5" x 4.5" x 4" Styrofoam box that will be provided to you and the total weight of box and experiment must not exceed 1.2 lbs.
  - NO LIVE ANIMALS with exception of insects (bugs, spiders) may participate as part of an experiment.
2. Email USI Engineering faculty member, Glen Kissel your experiment idea, [gkissel@usi.edu](mailto:gkissel@usi.edu) by Monday, October 4, 2010. You will be contacted by Dr. Kissel if your classroom's experiment is chosen and arrangements will then be made to obtain the experiment box.
3. Construct your experiment, place it into the box. Make arrangements to deliver the box to USI by Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, for the October 23<sup>rd</sup> launch, or email Glenn Kissel at [gkissel@usi.edu](mailto:gkissel@usi.edu) if you need someone to pick up your experiment to deliver to USI. The USI students will document both the launch and recovery, and arrangements will be made to return the experiment box to you and your students, so that you can analyze the results.
4. You and your class should document the creation and analysis of your Balloon Assisted Stratospheric Experiment, so that the information can be shared with future participants. More details will be sent to participants as we get closer to the Launch date!
5. Students will be invited to observe the flight from Mission Control at USI on Saturday morning, October 23, 2010. If the launch occurs from the USI campus they will also be invited to observe the launch up close.