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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLUMBIA MEMORIAL SPACE CENTER JOINS NASA IN NATIONWIDE CELEBRATION OF WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE FIRST SCIENCE IMAGES

Downey, CA, July 7, 2022 – The Columbia Memorial Space Center has joined hundreds of sites across the country to celebrate the release of the first science images from the James Webb Space Telescope, NASA’s next great space science observatory. The Space Center will offer a range of public programs to bring the excitement of STEAM to visitors of all ages. Activities will include several special presentations, hands-on activities, Spanish programming, and outdoor telescope viewing. This in-person community event is taking place on Saturday, July 16, 2022, from 2 pm to 9 pm at the Columbia Memorial Space Center located at 12400 Columbia Way, Downey, CA 90242. Admission to the Space Center is \$5.

“We are thrilled that the Columbia Memorial Space Center is an official host site for NASA’s James Webb Space Telescope community events celebrating Webb’s first stunning images,” said Ben Dickow, President and Executive Director of the Columbia Memorial Space Center. “We have partnered with NASA/JPL, Mt. Wilson Observatory, Carnegie Institution for Science and the Planetary Society to help our community celebrate this amazing feat of science and engineering. People of all ages and backgrounds will find inspiration in Webb’s new view of the cosmos, which will fundamentally change our understanding of the universe for this generation and many to come.”

Mayor Blanca Pacheco joined the Space Center in its excitement and said, “the James Webb Space Telescope will continue to foster the wonder and curiosity for our galaxy and bring the world of STEAM education to our youth, allowing them the opportunity to develop a passion for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math.” Mayor Pro Tem Catherine Alvarez echoed the Mayor’s comments and said, “This out of this world unique experience is going to be an unforgettable moment for our community, and we are so fortunate our city can be a part of it.”

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Webb is the largest and most complex space science telescope ever built –the premier observatory of the next decade. This international mission, led by NASA in partnership with the European Space Agency and the Canadian Space Agency, launched on December 25, 2021. After unfolding in space into its final form, Webb successfully arrived at its destination nearly 1 million miles from Earth and began preparing for science operations.

The observatory, which is designed to see the universe in infrared, will push the field of astronomy into a new era. Webb will be able to study light from distant parts of the universe for the very first time –the first galaxies that formed over 13.5 billion years ago –and give us insight into how our universe formed. It will also peer into dusty stellar nurseries to explore distant worlds orbiting other stars and observe objects in our own solar system. Webb will extend the scientific discoveries of other NASA missions like the Hubble Space Telescope, Chandra X-ray Observatory, and Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite.

For more information about the Columbia Memorial Space Center, please visit www.columbiaspace.org.

To learn more about the Webb telescope, go to www.webb.nasa.gov

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