

The Dream Rocket's First National Press Conference



Founder / Director Jennifer Marsh

Original Speech Monday August 17, 2009

On behalf of the Dream Rocket, thank you all for coming!

And before I begin, let me thank all of our speakers on the podium this morning whom have been greatly supportive through council and guidance.

CEO, U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, General Larry Capps,



Director of the Alabama Tourism Department, Lee Sentell

Mayor Tommy Battle

Mayor Paul Finley of Madison

The University of Alabama in Huntsville, President, Dr. David Williams

President/CEO of the Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau; Judy Ryals

Their presence here says some important things about how amazing this community is. A year ago, I had just moved to Huntsville. I had a dream about this project, and barely a year later, this project has the support of the community.

I'm touched, honored, humbled and so excited – all at the same time!

I had just finished wrapping the gas station project in New York, and then the Tree project here in Huntsville. I was thrilled with the participation from people all over the world. I felt that these projects had tapped into something important. People WANTED to collaborate.

I wanted to do another wrap project. I was hired by UAH and moved here...all the time thinking "what should I wrap next?"

And when I learned the history of the Saturn V – how the odds makers put 1000-1 odds against putting a man on the moon before the end of the decade – how it was considered an "impossible dream'....

Well... that's where the idea of Big Dreams and the Saturn V came together.

In reading about the history of the space program, I am struck by how many of the key players were inspired when they were 12 or 13. They had this dream of space flight and they made it happen.

If we can get people to dream big dreams again – who knows what we may accomplish in the future?

The Spirit of the Saturn V teaches us that when people collaborate on an important goal and put aside their differences, nothing is impossible! Anything can be accomplished.

So whether your dream is:

- Going to mars,
- Curing cancer,
- Being the first in your family to go to college, or
- Finally getting clean water for you village

Whatever your dream is – if you work hard at it and collaborate with others – truly, anything is possible.

As Scott carpenter said last year when he visited for the Davidson center opening

“Anything that can be imagined can be accomplished”

So let’s get the world dreaming again!

We want to cover the Saturn V with over 8000 “dream theme” and “visionary” panels. The dream theme name was suggested by Huntsville’s good friend, Dr Neil de Grasse Tyson when Fred Ordway and I visited with him in New York earlier this year. Thank you Fred!

Each of these Dream Theme panels will be 2 x 2 feet squared. Our goal is every state in the US and at least 100 countries take part in this monumental global collaborative.

The Interdependence Tree project that we did for Panoply had 39 states and 23 countries – so it’s a very achievable goal – if anyone is offering you 1000-1 odds against it – take it!

We are going to fund this project in several ways:

1. Through Participants reserving a spot for their panels at thedreamrocket.com
2. And with a large number of donations and sponsorships – we’re asking for individuals, organizations, or companies to sponsor a Dream panel for \$100 – this sponsorship will go to a school, group, or country of your choice.

For \$100 you can help someone see their dream placed among the dreams of others from around the world.

I hope you all will support and participate in the Dream Rocket.

“Why Should I Participate?”

- because your art work will be part of the largest global collaborative art project ever
- because your dream and hope for the future is important - and you want the world to know what you stand for
- because you want to honor someone who helped inspire you
- because you believe that working together is better than working alone
- and from a very practical angle – it’s a good return on investment:
 - wrap projects get unbelievable global publicity – as the artist christo has shown
 - and this publicity creates tourism dollars, global recognition, and all sorts of other benefits

- I have to believe that a wrap project – with collaborators from all over the world – should do just as well – or better

Why Should I Sponsor a Panel for Someone Else?

- because it might just be the activity that changes their life
- because you believe that it will help a teacher somewhere in the world, make these dream themes relevant for her students
- because it sends a powerful message to children out there -- that there is someone who cares about what they believe

Next May, the eyes of the world will be on Huntsville and this rocket – and the amazing people here who collaborated on an “Impossible Dream” – and made it come true.

And we can show the world – again – how the Spirit of the Saturn V can inspire future generations.

The people here who built the Saturn V changed the world in all sorts of wonderful ways. In addition to the dream of landing a man on the moon, it had some very down-to-earth benefits: Everyone knows if we hadn't gone to the moon, our cell phones would be the size of bricks – if they existed at all.

In closing, I have a quote from Margaret Mead that applies so well to what you all did with the Saturn V, and what we hope to replicate with the Dream Rocket:

“Never, ever, underestimate the power of a small group of people to change the world. Indeed, it is the ONLY thing that ever has.”

Huntsville, please help the Dream Rocket and the Spirit of the Saturn V to change the world again!

Thank you all for coming and for your support!!