

# Media Advisory: Howard B. Owens Science Center Hosts Stargazing Flight Event

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September 10, 2015

For Immediate Release

**CONTACT:**

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**WHO:** Howard B. Owens Science Center  
Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA)  
Shades of Blue DC/MD/VA Chapter  
Science, Mathematics, Aerospace, Research, and Technology (S.M.A.R.T)  
Nichelle Nichols, Actress

**WHAT:** Stargazing Education Outreach Event

**WHEN:** Tuesday, September 15 • 8:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Howard B. Owens Science Center  
9601 Greenbelt Road  
Lanham, MD 20706

**BACKGROUND:**

On September 15, 2015, the SOFIA Stargazing flight will fly at 40,000 ft. altitude during an 11-hour flight from California to Canada and back to California. Actress Nichelle Nichols, Lieutenant Commander Uhura of the Starship Enterprise on *Star Trek*, will control the SOFIA telescope, which will point to the star birthing area of the universe for astronomical research.

The Stargazing Education Outreach Event at the HBOSC Planetarium will feature science, aviation, and *Trekker* presentations to provide attendees with background information. In addition, Nichols will answer student questions live while onboard the flight.

The SOFIA flight leaves California 7:30 p.m. (PST)/10:30 p.m. (EST).