

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration



Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
2101 NASA Parkway
Houston, Texas 77058-3696

July 24, 2008

Reply to Attn of:

Dear Congresswoman Vicki Truitt,

I want to thank you for nominating me for the High School Aerospace Scholars program through NASA. What this program has done in terms of getting me active about what I want to do in the future has been tremendous. When I first heard about the program through my physics teacher, I was unsure if it would be worth it. I thought I might have been getting myself into something way over my head. But the online lessons were very introductory, giving students with little base knowledge of the subjects (like me) a good overview. Ultimately, they helped spark curiosity. Not only has my interest in engineering grown, but my entire understanding and regard for the fields of math and science have expanded exponentially. Getting to come down to Houston has been incredible. Living in Colleyville, I've never gotten a chance to come down and see the space center. It's amazing! The complexity of how each system, each team of engineers, each control room must be integrated with every other part of NASA is astounding. While here I've seen rooms that no normal person will ever see. Walking through the hall we pass flight controllers, program directors, and astronauts! But here, that's no big deal. This program will have an incredible impact on high school students throughout Texas who participate. As it continues to expand, it will introduce and excite more students each year. Thank you once again for your nomination and support for a spectacular program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Atwell". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Matthew Atwell