

Welcome
Wernher von Braun Symposium
Oct. 8, 2013 – 8:30 a.m. (Chan Auditorium)

- I am pleased to welcome you to UAH for the sixth annual Wernher von Braun Memorial Symposium. This year's theme, Bringing Exploration Forward, is particularly appropriate with the environment that our federal space activities are facing. The need to create a progressive momentum about the future direction of America's space exploration is extremely critical at this point in history.
- NASA, and the infrastructure established to support space exploration for decades, has provided exemplary leadership. America's space agency, Marshall Space Flight Center, and the capable corporate partners, including many that populate Cummings Research Park, are the institutions on which this nation can depend for outstanding leadership in space exploration.
- It's fitting that the Von Braun Symposium is again being hosted on the UAH campus. In the genesis of NASA, Dr. von Braun clearly understood and supported the role that research universities play in technological developments. It was through his efforts that the UAH Research Institute was created, and his vision continues to be carried out every day through our faculty, students and research staff.
- A recent example was demonstrated two weeks ago. John Bennewitz, a UAH graduate student and our von Braun Propulsion Scholar, created an innovative approach for suppressing combustion instabilities in rocket engines through application of band-limited white noise. For his work, he was invited to be a visiting lecturer at Space-X.
- UAH has been a provider of workforce talent to America's space program for decades. Our ability to graduate high quality scientists and engineers is one of the reasons why we exist. UAH is a Tier 1 national university as ranked by U.S. News & World Report, and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching classifies us at the highest level of research activity. UAH is consistently ranked among the top universities in the nation in NASA-sponsored research.
- We appreciate your presence on campus and look forward to the discussions that this symposium will generate. We would also like to invite you back to learn more about our research efforts and results. Thanks for being here.