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Aerospace engineer Craig Williams visits Horizon Science Academy, discusses Apollo Mission 11

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Dozens of students and staff from Horizon Science Academy of Lorain, 760 Tower Blvd., gathered in the school's auditorium Nov. 4 to listen to a presentation by aerospace engineer Craig Williams.

Williams told the audience that he has dedicated over 30 years of his life to engineering in order to explore the cosmos.

But his mission Nov. 4 was different.

In fact, it wasn't solely focused on the universe and exploration, but rather, education.

"I wanted them to take away two things," Williams said. "The work that was done in Northeastern Ohio was fundamental to achieving the goal of landing someone on the moon.

"I hoped to link what they're learning in high school as fundamental to the field of aerospace engineering."

Work from NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland played a large role in several



launches and scientific developments; including the Apollo 11 lunar mission that sent Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin to the moon over 50 years ago.

NASA Glenn Research Center employees in Northeast Ohio used information from the Surveyor program to figure out what the chemical properties of the surface of the moon is like in order to develop gear to land and take off on successfully.

"Without Surveyor, you

really couldn't land on the moon," Williams said. "And it was done by the folks here in Northeast Ohio."

DeAndre Clayton, a senior at Horizon Science Academy, was amazed by the presentation -- especially when Williams brought up technology.

"I think it's fascinating how we still use technology that was in the 1950s with out modern technology," Clayton said. "We're able to use so much older technology to make further advancements

in today's society."

Similar to Clayton, Samuel Carrillo, also a senior, said he found the presentation insightful and inspiring.

"Before [the seminar], I was very uncertain about doing it [aerospace engineering]," Carrillo said. "But after he explained some of the details going into it, I realized how interested I actually am."

After the presentation ended, students gathered to ask Williams questions and to shake his hand.