**United Airlines, James R. Jordan Foundation
to Send Chicago-Area Students on
Out-of-This-World Adventure**

**CHICAGO, July 12, 2013** – United Airlines and the James R. Jordan Foundation on Sunday are sending 12 deserving Chicago-area students to Space Camp where they will participate in mock shuttle missions, moon walks and other simulated lunar expeditions.

The youths – winners of the Foundation’s annual Student Explorers essay contest – will spend five days on the grounds of the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala., which is also home to NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center. United will fly the students roundtrip to Huntsville from Chicago O’Hare International Airport.

“Math, engineering and technology are fundamental subjects to our operation and our industry,” said Pete McDonald, executive vice president and chief operations officer at United. “We’re glad to team up with the James R. Jordan Foundation to help these bright students learn more about these important subjects while having the adventure of a lifetime.”

Student Explorers offers an educational, fun and safe summer camp opportunity for underserved students. For most, it is their first time away from home. The five-day trip is a transforming experience that offers “classroom” learning, while helping students gain self-confidence, cultural awareness, teamwork skills and invaluable life lessons.

According to the National Summer Learning Association, most students lose about two months of grade level equivalency in math skills during the summer months; low-income students also lose more than two months in reading achievement, despite the fact that their middle-class peers make slight gains. More than half of the achievement gap between lower- and higher-income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities. As a result, low-income youth are less likely to graduate from high school or enter college.

The 12 students heading to Space Camp attend elementary schools throughout the Chicago area, including Victor Herbert and William Brown Elementary in Chicago’s West Haven neighborhood, Sherman Elementary in Englewood and Gertrude Smith Elementary in West Aurora.

**About United**

United Airlines and United Express operate an average of 5,446 flights a day to more than 370 airports across six continents. In 2012, United and United Express carried more passenger traffic than any other airline in the world and operated nearly two million flights carrying 140 million customers. United is investing in upgrading its onboard products and now offers more flat-bed seats in its premium cabins and more extra-legroom economy-class seating than any airline in North America. In 2013, United became the first U.S.-based international carrier to offer satellite-based Wi-Fi on long-haul overseas routes. The airline also features DIRECTV® on 200 aircraft, offering customers more live television access than any other airline in the world. United operates nearly 700 mainline aircraft and has made large-scale investments in its fleet. In 2013, United will continue to modernize its fleet by taking delivery of more than two dozen new Boeing aircraft. The company expanded its industry-leading global route network in 2012, launching nine new international and 18 new domestic routes. *Business Traveler* magazine awarded United Best Airline for North American Travel for 2012, and readers of *Global Traveler* magazine have voted United’s MileagePlus program the best frequent flyer program for nine consecutive years. United is a founding member of Star Alliance, which provides service to 194 countries via 27 member airlines. More than 85,000 United employees reside in every U.S. state and in countries around the world. For more information, visit [united.com](http://www.united.com/) or follow United on [Twitter](http://www.twitter.com/United) and [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/UnitedAirlines). The common stock of United’s parent, United Continental Holdings, Inc., is traded on the NYSE under the symbol UAL.

**About the James R. Jordan Foundation**

The James R. Jordan Foundation is dedicated to strengthening families, motivating youth and ensuring high quality academic opportunities for children in underserved communities. The James R. Jordan Foundation Vision for Families – our series of family programs – is guided by the belief that a strong family plays a major role in a child’s academic success, and that education provides a path out of poverty. For more information visit [www.jamesjordanfoundation.com](http://www.jamesjordanfoundation.com). Or follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/JordanFound) or [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/jamesrjordanfoundation).

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