



**Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Superintendent of Schools**  
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## **NEWS RELEASE - For immediate release**

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### **Solano Students Brave the Travis Spark Challenge**

**Solano County, CA-** High School students from across Solano County will brave the Travis Spark Challenge, hosted by the Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) and Travis Air Force Base (TAFB), on Friday, May 13th. The Travis Spark Challenge, a partnership between SCOE, TAFB Phoenix Spark Lab, and TAFB Nexus Spark Lab, is a unique team competition inspiring high school students to solve real life challenges facing TAFB. The challenges presented advance both high school academic goals and Travis Air Force Base's mission.

This year's competition taps into a pool of young innovators that can bring novel solutions and perspectives to problems at hand using teamwork, communication, and creative problem-solving. Student teams will assemble at TAFB and face three authentic challenges TAFB is currently trying to solve: fuel savings, determine the most fuel-efficient way to operate TAFB vehicles; foreign object damage walk, design a viable alternative to the foreign object damage walk to prevent damage to flight line vehicles; and flight line perimeter control, create an application that utilizes flow control around the red line perimeter at the flight line.

Solano Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson remarked, "Solano County Office of Education is a long-standing supporter of Travis Air Force Base. We are grateful for their partnership as we endeavor to provide students with valuable experiences that challenge them to solve real-world problems through the Spark program. When given the opportunity, students rise to any challenge laid before them and often astound us with their innovative out-of-the-box thinking and solutions."

Participants will give a 10-minute presentation with visual aids in a forum that is modeled after workplace practices. Students will then be judged on product design and feasibility, cost analysis including initial startup costs, and long-term analysis.

For more information about the Travis Spark Challenge contact Kelley Birch at [kbirch@solanocoe.net](mailto:kbirch@solanocoe.net).

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Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) provides leadership, support, and fiscal oversight for charter schools and Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield-Suisun, Travis, Vacaville, and Vallejo school districts which serve approximately 63,000 students. Solano County Superintendent of Schools, Lisette Estrella-Henderson is elected by voters of Solano County. The Superintendent is a state constitutional officer who serves as the chief executive officer of SCOE and as a liaison between local school districts and the state.