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KELLY HALACKA OF BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MICH. VOLUNTEERS AT CAREER EXPLORATION CONFERENCE

Kelly Halacka, daughter of Michael F. and Shon Halacka, was selected to participate in the NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC) Cooperative Education (Co-op) Program in January 2001 after interning here in 2000. Halacka is a Junior at Case Western Reserve University majoring in Biomedical Engineering. She is a graduate of Marian High School.

Halacka is assigned to the Bioastronautics and Astromaterials Program Office, working with Space Medicine. She has assisted in projects concerning acoustic bioeffects of spaceflight, helped with the development of mission integration plans for the STS-100 space shuttle flight and compiled documentation for aeromedical flight rules.

As part of her co-op experience, Halacka volunteered at the "Expanding Your Horizons" Conference at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. Joining volunteers such as former astronaut Sally Ride and doctors Jean Carter and Marilyn Lindstrom, Halacka gave her time to talk with female middle school students about the field she chose to study.

Volunteers at the conference make a difference in the lives of the girls who attend. The conference originated in California in 1976 and was introduced to the Clear Lake area six years ago. Since then, over 1,400 local middle school girls have gone to hands-on interactive workshops designed to foster an interest in mathematics and science.

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