



The Virginia Space Grant Consortium would like to share the following information about the following FREE NASA-related programs for Virginia's high school students interested in STEM.

## ***Virginia Earth Systems Science Scholars***

(VESSS) is a NASA-based program for **11th/12th grade students** (and STEM teachers) who are interested in Earth Systems Science-related science, technology, engineering and/or math (STEM). This course focuses on Earth Systems Science and the NASA mission that help study these topics.

For **High School juniors and seniors**, **Virginia Earth System Science Scholars** (VESSS) is an interactive, on-line Earth System Science Course featuring NASA scientific research and data. The course will be offered for dual enrollment college credit (statewide through TNCC) for high school juniors and seniors beginning in spring semester 2016.

By combining detailed Earth System Science content with real world data analysis, students will be exposed to a rigorous course that will work across science disciplines to cultivate 21st Century Learning Skills. The program will focus on preparing students for the rigors of college and careers while allowing them to develop strong science-based skills such as critical thinking and inquiry-based problem solving. VESSS will have two components. The first component is an online sixteen-week course running from December through April. The second component is a residential NASA Summer Academy at NASA Langley Research Center for students who perform well in the course. **Students who successfully participate in VESSS can apply to earn 3 college credits for the online course and 1 additional credit for the Summer Academy.**

Please direct students or other faculty to the website for program information and application, <http://vsgc.odu.edu/VESSS/>. **The deadline for student applications is October 30th, 2016.**

Please visit the [NASA Virginia Space Grant Consortium](http://vsgc.odu.edu/) website