



# Muscogee County School District

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## **For Immediate Release**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Columbus Student Sends MIT Early Admission Tube to the Edge of Space**

(Columbus, GA) –Only a few students are accepted into early admission at MIT. Students who are accepted receive notification in a shiny mailing tube with their letter of acceptance, some school information, and even some confetti.

Erin King, a senior at Columbus High School, received her tube before Christmas and learned about the tradition where early admission MIT students do something interesting with their tubes. Some students “hack” their tube by turning them into marshmallow shooters or an equivalent novel use. Erin decided to send hers to the edge of space. Using a small weather balloon, a couple of GPS equipped radios, a video camera, and a tank of Helium, Erin released her tube at 1:00 p.m. on January 16, 2012, from Lumpkin, Georgia.

Volunteers from the Columbus Amateur Radio Club witnessed the release and drove 100 miles across South Georgia following the GPS coordinates of the silver tube. The balloon carried Erin’s tube to 90,000 feet above South Georgia and floated on the atmosphere like a boat on water at the very edge of space. The balloon popped and the tube came down by parachute near Cordele, Georgia, where it was found in a small pine tree waiting to be recovered.

Erin has been a member of a co-curricular organization called the Columbus Space Program that uses science learned in the classroom to do amazing things after school. The Columbus Space Program has launched 13 balloons to the edge of space carrying science experiments designed by students from across Muscogee County. Erin has been a leader within the group with both the balloon program and the FIRST robotics team. She will share the video and images with MIT.

For more information, media can contact [communications@muscogee.k12.ga.us](mailto:communications@muscogee.k12.ga.us) or Luther Richardson, 706-888-3124, [astro@mit.edu](mailto:astro@mit.edu) . For more information on the Columbus Space Program, access <http://www.columbus2space.org> .