



MEDIA ALERT

**Iowa Transportation Museum to Debut Online *Transportation Heroes Center*
Honoring Inaugural “Heroes” Who Make Life Go**

NASA Astronaut and Iowa Native Peggy Whitson to Provide Keynote Speech

WHAT: NASA Astronaut and Iowa Native Peggy A. Whitson, Ph.D. will address hundreds of students, transportation workers, enthusiasts and community members in a statewide celebration to commemorate the launch of the *Transportation Heroes Center*, an educational Web-based exhibit developed by the Iowa Transportation Museum in Grinnell, Iowa.

The free event, which Museum officials hope will inspire others to learn more about Iowa’s surprising transportation legacy, will be hosted by former Governor Robert Ray and honor individuals with significant contributions to Iowa’s transportation legacy.

ABOUT: Located at www.TransportationHeroes.org, the *Transportation Heroes Center* allows visitors to explore Iowa’s transportation legacy through features, photos and video that tell the stories of more than twenty well-known and unsung “Transportation Heroes” from across Iowa. They can also nominate Heroes from their own lives to help the exhibit grow.

Content from the *Transportation Heroes Center* will be incorporated in the Iowa Transportation Museum, currently under development at the historic Spaulding Carriage and Automotive Works Factory in Grinnell.

Having spent more than a year spent in space on a series of unique and challenging missions, including a six month stint as Commander of the International Space Station, Whitson is one of NASA’s most experienced astronauts.

WHO: **The event is free and open to the public.** Featured speakers and attendees include:

- NASA Astronaut **Peggy A. Whitson, Ph.D.**
- Former Iowa **Governor Robert Ray**
- Iowa Department of Transportation Director **Nancy Richardson**
- **Rep. Leonard Boswell**
- Iowa Transportation Museum Board President **Gerry Schnepf**

WHEN: **Friday, May 1, 2009, 10 a.m.**

WHERE: Grinnell High School Auditorium, 1333 Sunset Street, Grinnell, IA 50112
Park in the back lot, west of the school, near the Auditorium. Media check is located inside Auditorium lobby.

NOTE: Please request interviews and confirm attendance in advance.

MEDIA

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