

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NR-10-07-25-Star Party
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College of the Canyons Fall Star Party Set for October 24

College of the Canyons will host its Fall 2025 Star Party on Friday, Oct. 24, featuring a keynote presentation by Dr. Athina Peidou, a geodesist and GRACE-FO Project Staff Scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Peidou will present "Monitoring the Global Water Cycle with GRACE-FO Missions," sharing insights from NASA's mission that tracks the movement of water across the planet, including changes in underground water storage, soil moisture, glaciers, ice sheets, and sea level.

"The Star Party is a wonderful way for our students, families, and community to come together and share the joy of discovery," said Dr. Paul Wickline, associate vice president at the Canyon Country campus. "We are proud to host events that spark curiosity and connect people of all ages to the wonders of science."

The GRACE-FO mission builds on the legacy of the original GRACE mission, which launched on March 17, 2002, and operated until October 2017. The twin satellites measured variations in Earth's gravity field, providing critical data on mass distribution changes over time. This information has helped scientists study the hydrosphere, oceans, and geology of Earth. Using a microwave ranging system and advanced laser technology, the satellites measure the distance between each other with remarkable precision, enabling detailed mapping of Earth's gravitational field.

Peidou will explain the science and technology behind these missions and discuss how this groundbreaking research helps scientists understand our planet's changing climate.

In addition to the keynote, attendees can explore the night sky through telescopes with guidance from the Local Group Astronomy Club of Santa Clarita and the Antelope Valley Astronomy Club. The evening will also feature science updates from COC faculty and students, including the COC Aerospace and Sciences Team, along with interactive activity tables, demonstrations, and an indoor portable planetarium.

The Star Party, sponsored by Logix, is part of COC's Science Talks series and will run from 6 to 9:30 p.m. at the lower plaza adjacent to the Takeda Science Center on the Canyon Country campus. A food truck will be on site, offering meals for purchase.

This free event is open to the public. For more information, visit the [Canyon Country campus webpage](#).