

## Hometown astronaut inspires local students, 1:40pm

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Published Thursday, May 18, 2006

STOCKTON – Franklin High School sits decidedly in east Stockton, but its influence and promise reach further, one of the school's most notable graduates told students in the auditorium seats he said he sat in 26 years ago.

Jose Hernandez, a French Camp native who in February completed astronaut training, returned to Franklin High on Thursday. He said he wanted to tell students that if the Spanish-speaking son of migrant workers could eventually become a U.S. astronaut, then they, too, should feel confident in setting goals and working to achieve them.

"Point yourself in that direction," Hernandez said in the crowded Franklin auditorium. "What do I have to do today, what do I have to do next month, what do I have to do next year to reach that goal?"



Students howled and clapped when Hernandez, an alumnus from the class of 1980, was introduced. When he finished speaking they took pictures with camera phones and asked for autographs.

Hernandez, for whom a Stockton Unified elementary school recently was named, was to visit several campuses this week with similar messages:

Wednesday, he addressed students at Lodi Unified's McAuliffe Middle School Thursday, in addition to Franklin High, he planned to visit Stagg High School and Stockton Skills School Friday he is expected to visit Chavez High School Saturday he will deliver a commencement address at the University of the Pacific. Hernandez is a 1984 graduate of Pacific. Also Saturday, at 6p.m., Hernandez will speak at the Stockton Memorial Civic Auditorium as part of the Stockton-San Joaquin Public Library's One Book, One San Joaquin program. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (209) 937-8221 or (866) 805-7323.