



Photo courtesy Scaled Composites

Matthew STINEMETZE

Aerospace Engineering

Scaled Composites, LLC
Mojave, Calif.

2011

SCIENCE in KANSAS
150 years and counting

Matthew STINEMETZE current

- Attended Graber Elementary in Hutchinson where he was inspired by the Kansas Cosmosphere. Graduated from McPherson Junior and Senior High Schools. Earned bachelors degree in aerospace engineering at Wichita State University.
- Designs and builds air and space planes. Was a project engineer on the SpaceShipOne program, which won the Ansari X-Prize space competition in 2004 as the first experimental space ship to reach suborbital space twice in two weeks.
- Is program manager for its successor program, which will build the world's first commercial manned space ship--SpaceShipTwo (SS2).
- The White Knight Mothership (WK2) airplane will carry the SS2 to 50,000 feet. There, SS2 will be released. Firing its rocket engine, SS2 will zoom 100 kilometers into space, giving passengers the experience of zero gravity.

EXTRA COOL: "Find your passion, set goals, ask questions, ask for help, be open to new ideas, be prepared to fail—and then learn from that," Stinemetze advises.

Project of the Ad Astra Kansas Initiative www.adastra-ks.org

Kansas Sesquicentennial 2011



Photo courtesy of Kansas Geological Survey

LYNN WATNEY

GEOLOGY

Kansas Geological Survey
Lawrence



Lynn Watney current

- Is a lead investigator on a U.S. Department of Energy project to test the safety and efficiency of long-term storage of carbon dioxide (CO2) deep underground in south-central Kansas.
- A natural and essential part of our atmosphere, it is also a greenhouse gas given off by the fossil fuels used in vehicles and industry and is considered a cause of climate change. The U.S. produces more than 20% of carbon emissions worldwide.
- In this project, 40,000 metric tons of CO2, brought in from an area ethanol plant, will be compressed and injected 5,000 feet underground into a saltwater-filled rock formation. Another 30,000 metric tons will be injected into the overlying oil reservoir to study the effect on oil production.
- Besides contributing to cleaner air, successful geologic storage of CO2 could lead to the development of a new industry in Kansas.

EXTRA COOL: The KGS, operated by the University of Kansas, has been serving Kansans since 1889.

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