

## Senators Levin & Dayton Visit STARBASE Minnesota



While exploring science and engineering concept with their classmates, students from Frost Lake Elementary in St. Paul, Minnesota also shared their STARBASE experience with Senator Carl Levin, Michigan and Gubernatorial Candidate Mark Dayton, Former Senator Minnesota and current STARBASE Minnesota Board

Member. The visit to STARBASE was part of a June tour of the 133<sup>rd</sup> Airlift wing of the Minnesota Air Guard where STARBASE Minnesota is located.

As the senators moved through the STARBASE facility they saw students in action, as well as engaging and varied classroom environments. In the Apollo classroom, designed to mimic the view of Earth from the Moon, the senators saw the engineering design process in action. Students showed off the airplane designs they had researched then created using Pro/Engineer modeling software.

In the Hercules classroom, designed to showcase the C-130 Hercules flown at the 133<sup>rd</sup>, Senator Levin talked with students about the technology they use in their every day lives. In the Planets classroom, encompassed by a jumbo sized mural of the solar system, all in attendance experienced the exhibition of how science concepts like states of matter come alive in the context of real world engineering challenges.

While the visit was designed for the senators to experience a slice of STARBASE, students also benefited from the experience. Even in their adolescent years the students in attendance recognized the importance of the career paths Senators Levin and Dayton have pursued. Several students grew in excitement when they realized that they were speaking with a U.S. Senator and a potential future governor.

The classroom teachers from Frost Lake were equally impressed by the visit. Much appreciation was expressed for both the local and national support that their students receive through participation in STARBASE Minnesota. The STARBASE staff is also very grateful for the opportunity to visit with Senator Levin and for the work done by Senator Dayton to facilitate the gathering.