



**CONTACT:**  
Office of College Relations  
1401 S. College Ave.  
Levelland, Texas 79336  
(806) 894-9611, ext. 2211  
Fax: (806) 894-4701

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CONTACT: Myrna Whitehead

806-894-9611, Ext. 2212

[mwhitehead@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:mwhitehead@southplainscollege.edu)

### **SPC to host astronomy speaker April 4**

LEVELLAND – Rebecca Koopman will present “So You Want to be an Astronomer: Adventures in Life of an Extragalactic Astronomy” at 9 a.m. April 4 in the Sundown Room on the South Plains College campus. The presentation is free and open to the public.

Koopman, Ph.D., is an associate professor of physics and astronomy at Union College in Schenectady, N.Y., and she is a Harlow Shapley Visiting Lecturer. She will discuss her adventures as an extragalactic astronomer and the career path that made it possible. She will provide recommendations for those interested in scientific or technical careers as well as discuss the challenges and opportunities in astronomy in the future.

The Harlow Shapley Visiting Lectureship Program of the American Astronomical Society is a program of two day visits by professional astronomers who bring excitement of modern astronomy and astrophysics to colleges of all types. The program honors Shapley (1885-1972) who founded the Harvard University graduate program in astronomy. Shapley is recognized for his work at Mount Wilson that established the scale of the Milky Way Galaxy and the location of the Sun in its outskirts.

In addition to the lecture, representatives from the Moody Planetarium of the Museum of Texas Tech University will host a star gazing event April 4 at 7:30 p.m. at the soccer field, located on the corner of A&M Lane and Verne Beebe Drive, south of the Smallwood Apartments and across the street from the Texan Dome, weather permitting.

On April 3, Koopman will speak at 7 p.m. at the Moody Planetarium, 3301 Fourth St., in Lubbock. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Dr. Phil Anderson, chairman of the math and engineering department at SPC, at 806-894-9611, ext. 2738.

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