The Baltimore SEMAA Day STEM Extravaganza at Morgan State University took place on Saturday September 15, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Hill Field House at 1700, E. Cold Spring Lane, Baltimore, MD 21251 (Morgan’s Campus). The SEMAA Day Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Extravaganza was a fun-filled day of various hands-on, minds-on STEM activities for students from K to 12th grade, their parents/family members and the general public. The day’s event was designed to encourage youth to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) at the post-secondary level and provide parents and family members with educational materials and techniques on how to keep their children interested in academics, specifically the STEM field. There were many FREE materials (especially NASA educational materials) and opportunities about STEM for K-12 students and parents. Exhibitors and presenters from various national, regional and local STEM organizations and agencies were present at the event. These include: NASA Glenn Research Center, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Can Manufacturers Institute, Maryland Space Grant Consortium, Team America Rocketry, Maryland Science Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), US Coast Guard, Space Telescope Science Institute and Paragon TEC, Inc., Federal Aviation Administration. The day’s event commenced with an opening and orientation session led by Baltimore SEMAA Director Dr. Jonathan Wilson who gave an overview of the SEMAA project from the national and local perspective. The welcome and opening remarks were given by Morgan State University Chief of Staff. Dr. Willie Larkin. This was followed by four brief invited presentations, these were: “Preparing Students for STEM Career Paths” by Ms. Jomill N. Wiley, NASA SEMAA National Director, Paragon TEC, Inc.; “The value of STEM Careers” by Ms. Nina Jackson, Education Program Manager, NOAA Satellite and Information Service; “K-12 STEM Engagement and Environmental Sustainability” by Ms. Jenny Day, Director of Recycling Can Manufacturers Institute; “Developing the Future Aerospace Workforce” by Dr. Terry Teays, Assistant Director, Maryland space Grant Consortium. After a brief question and answer session, attendees were engaged in a 4-hour session of interactive hands-on activities and science experiments provided by the exhibitors representing the following agencies: American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), Can Manufacturers Institute, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA),
Goddard Earth Sciences Technology and Research (GESTAR), Maryland Space Grant Consortium, Maryland Science Center, NASA Glenn Research Center, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Paragon TEC, Inc., Space Telescope Science Institute (STSI), Team America Rocketry and US Coast Guard. Participants also enjoyed various interactive STEM activities derived from the SEMAA curriculum and provided by Baltimore SEMAA teachers and staff such as: Astronomy in the Starlab Portable Planetarium, terraforming Mars, Effect of Microgravity on the heart and brain and aerodynamics of flight. The extravaganza attracted a total of 442 participants (students = 250, parents/adults/caregivers = 130, general public = 30, other groups/organizations = 32). Media coverage of the event was by Baltimore WMAR TV abc2 news and The Baltimore Times. For the TV clip go to www.abc2news.com and search for ‘Morgan hosts day of math and science and for the newspaper coverage, see attached a PDF of the article from the Baltimore Times.