

## College Station ED Physician Speaks at ACC Highland Grand Opening

He's an emergency physician who has worked everywhere from [Antarctica](#) (<http://www.eddocs.com/news/antarctic-adventure-esp-physician-spends-4-months-south-pole>) to [Russia](#) (<http://www.eddocs.com/news/down-earth-nasa-flight-surgeon-roden-home-russia>), but Dr. Sean Roden's career as a physician with Emergency Service Partners, L.P. and as a flight surgeon with NASA began in an unlikely place: Austin Community College (ACC).

Roden, who regularly works at the [St. Joseph College Station Emergency Center](#) (<http://www.eddocs.com/locations/st-joseph-college-station-emergency-center>), was a featured guest speaker at the grand opening of ACC's Highland Campus on August 27, 2014. The new facility is housed in a portion of the old Highland Mall in north-central Austin.



Roden noted that it's been more than 25 years since he graduated from ACC's paramedic program, and he recognizes just how unique his story is. A self-proclaimed "academic long-shot" who struggled with math, he initially "floundered" at the University of Texas and struggled to identify his passion.

"If you were to go back to West Texas and say, 'Hey, you know that Roden boy? He became a doctor. He went to the South Pole. He takes care of astronauts,' you'd probably get the response, 'Yeah, when pigs fly,'" Roden quipped.

It was only after he arrived at ACC and took his first EMT class that he found his calling. "That first ride, I knew I wanted to be in medicine," Roden said. "It was that one, simple course that led me on to the path of where I am today."

Roden applied to the paramedic program and earned his associate's degree. During his speech, he recognized some of his former ACC professors in the audience. "It was only ACC, and the fact that they wouldn't give up on me, that allowed me to go to night school to get junior high mathematics, high school mathematics, trigonometry, geometry, algebra I, algebra II, pre-calculus, and calculus," he said.

Citing his anti-gravity research with NASA, Roden summed it up: "Pigs do fly!"



*Roden spoke alongside dignitaries including U.S. Representative Lloyd Doggett, Texas Representative Dawnna Dukes, and Austin Mayor Lee Leffingwell.*



*ACC President and CEO Dr. Richard Rhodes presents Roden with a gift basket at the close of the opening ceremony for ACC's new Highland campus.*

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**Media**

[Austin Community College](http://www.austincc.edu/newsroom/index.php/2014/08/14/nasa-flight-surgeon-launched-medical-career-from-acc/) (<http://www.austincc.edu/newsroom/index.php/2014/08/14/nasa-flight-surgeon-launched-medical-career-from-acc/>)

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*About Emergency Service Partners, L.P.*

Founded in 1988, Emergency Service Partners, L.P. is a physician practice management group specializing in hospital emergency departments (EDs). The physician-owned and physician-managed company currently serves more than 25 EDs across Texas, including all six emergency rooms in the Bryan-based St. Joseph Health System. In addition, ESP provides pulmonary, intensive care, and sleep medicine services in Central Texas.