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## El Camino College Students Headed to Prestigious NASA Program

Three El Camino College students have been selected to visit NASA this fall as part of the prestigious National Community College Aerospace Scholars program.

Brett Lopez, Kendrick Robertson, and Vito Iaia are among 89 community and junior college students from across the nation who will have the opportunity to apply what they have learned during the academic year while working with NASA engineers. About 250 students applied for this opportunity. Last semester, El Camino College student Mario Cabrera participated in this program.

Lopez and Robertson will be going to the NCAS Program at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, while Iaia will be going to the NCAS Program at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

The program is a three-day on-site event that offers students an opportunity to interact with each other as they learn more about careers in science and engineering. Students form teams and establish fictional companies interested in Mars exploration. Each company is responsible for developing a prototype rover, designing a line drawing of the rover, and forming the company infrastructure, including budget, communications, and presentations.

National Community College Aerospace Scholars is a program based on Texas Aerospace Scholars, originally created by the state of Texas in partnership with NASA and the Texas educational community. Both programs are designed to encourage community and junior college students to enter careers in science and engineering and ultimately join the nation's highly technical workforce.

With this program, NASA continues the agency's investment in educational programs that attract and retain students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, disciplines critical to NASA's future missions.

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