



PRESS RELEASE

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PRINCE GEORGE'S MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN NASA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Space Agency Partners With National Alliance of Black School Educators to Motivate African-American Children to Pursue Science Careers

Prince George's County Public Schools is one of six school districts nationwide that will host a videoconference between several of its middle school students and the National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA) on Friday, February 18 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Eastern Time at the Bonnie F. Johns Educational Media Center, 8437 Landover Road, Landover, MD 20785.

Forty students from Kenmoor Middle School will engage in a 90-minute interactive discussion on planetary science – the inner planets (Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars) – during the videoconference with scientists at NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, VA. This Introduction to the Inner Solar System discussion will cover similarities and differences of the surface, atmosphere, and climate of the inner terrestrial planets.

“By connecting our children interactively with NASA scientists hundreds of miles away for an out-of-this-world discussion, we are demonstrating to them that there are no limits to their futures,” said Dr. André J. Hornsby, Chief Executive Officer for Prince George's County Public Schools. “They will see that education can take them wherever they want to go.”

Dr. Arlene S. Levine of the Langley Research Center said Dr. Hornsby's comments are consistent with NASA's mission to "inspire the next generation of explorers."

NASA has partnered with the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE) in a joint initiative to inspire African-American students to pursue science, particularly planetary science, as a career. The videoconferences are the culmination of countless discussions between Ms. Levine and the NABSE's Executive Director, Quentin Lawson.

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Beginning Friday, a series of four videoconferences will take place, exploring the Solar System, Earth and Mars, and Robotic and Human Exploration of the Solar System. Approximately 100 middle school students (grades 6-8) in the five NABSE regions will participate. Teachers should encourage students to ask questions, but neither students nor teachers are required to read or study for the teleconferences.

Titan Explorer Vision Mission Project of the Planetary Exploration Division of the NASA's Science Mission Directorate funds the program with NABSE. Dr. Joel S. Levine of the Science directorate at NASA Langley Research Center is the Principle Investigator of the Titan Mission Project as well as the program presenter. Dr. Arlene Levine also of the Science directorate at NASA Langley is the project director of this public outreach activity

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