

NASA Program Helps HISD Students Launch Aeronautics Studies

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Seven students from five different HISD high schools got a head start on careers in space exploration recently when they completed the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) [High School Aerospace Scholars program](#).

Seniors **Jessica Castro** and **Cristal Cervantes** (Stephen F. Austin High School), **Karthik Prasad** (Bellaire High School), **Van Vu** (César Chávez High School), **Ying Ying Lee** (Michael E. DeBakey High School for Health Professions), and **Raquel Gorotzieta** and **Duong Nguyen** (James Madison High School) all completed their coursework in the program this summer.

The High School for Aerospace gives eligible high-school juniors the opportunity to participate in an interactive online learning experience that culminates in a six-day hands-on visit to the Johnson Space Center, where they work under the guidance of NASA engineers and certified Texas teachers to develop a human mission to Mars.

Students must be nominated to participate in the program by one of their state legislators, and participants are selected on the basis of the quality of their coursework and their punctuality and completion rate in finishing assignments.

HISD students who participated were nominated by Texas legislators Rodney Ellis, Kyle Janek, Jim Murphy, and Rick Noriega. The two participants from Madison High School are both honors students in Madison's Meteorology and Space Science Magnet academy.

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