



For Immediate Release
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Oxnard College STEM Director

Ten Oxnard College NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars

OXNARD, Calif.—Ten Oxnard College students were selected from a competitive national application process to participate in NASA Community College Aerospace Scholar program (NCAS). With this project, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) continues the agency’s tradition of investing in the nation’s educational programs. It is directly tied to the agency’s major education goal of attracting and retaining students in STEM disciplines critical to NASA’s future missions.

According to participant Jaime Lopez, “NCAS proves that community college students can compete with 4 year university students. The experience brought together a wide range of people, some just starting college and some just finishing. It helped us to encourage each other and build confidence.”

Six of the original 10 were selected be among the 403 students nationwide to attend in a 4-day engineering design workshop at a NASA center. Shari Salas, Jaime Lopez, Elsa Vasquez, Pablo Higuera, Anthony Garcia and Lazaro Garza will work side-by-side with NASA professionals. The on-site experience at NASA centers includes a tour of facilities and briefings by subject matter experts. Students will experience a real world application of STEM and be able to ask questions of NASA engineers.

“My family was really happy for me. They know I’ve been trying to get into NASA and were very supportive,” said Elsa Vasquez, founding president of OC Women in STEM club.

“Doing something is the first step in getting good at something,” said Garza. He sees this experience as the first step in planning his future with NASA.

Garza and Vasquez will be travel to Armstrong Research Flight Center in Edwards, California. Lopez will travel to Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. Salas, Garcia and Higuera will travel to Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

Agustine Benitez, Hector Melendez, Crystal Zamora and Janelle Zamora were selected and completed the rigorous 5-week online program. NCAS is funded in part by the Minority University Research and Education Program (MUREP), which is committed to the recruitment of underrepresented and underserved students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) to sustain a diverse workforce.

Oxnard College is a learning-centered institution that embraces academic excellence by providing multiple pathways to student success. For more info, contact Dr. Marcella Klein Williams at mkleinwilliams@vccd.edu.

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NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars



Agustine Benitez



Elsa Vasquez



Hector Melendez



Janelle Zamora



Lazaro Garza



Crystal Zamora



Shari Salas



Jaime Lopez



Pablo Higuera

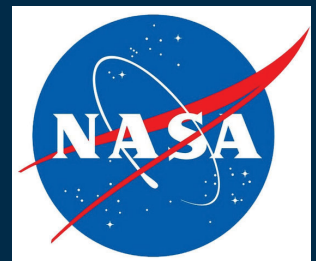


Anthony Garcia

These ten Oxnard College STEM students were selected from a competitive national application process to participate in NASA Community College Aerospace Scholar program (NCAS). With this project, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) continues the agency's tradition of investing in the nation's educational programs. It is directly tied to the agency's major education goal of attracting and retaining students in STEM disciplines critical to NASA's future missions. This program gives community college STEM students an authentic NASA experience and encourages them to finish a 2-year degree or transfer to a 4-year university to pursue a NASA-related field or career.

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NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars



Shari Salas



Pablo Higuera



Lazaro Garza



Jaime Lopez



Elsa Vasquez



Anthony Garcia

These bright Oxnard College STEM students were selected based on their work in the rigorous 5-week online program, to participate in a 4-day engineering design workshop at a NASA center.

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