

MUREP Aerospace Academy (MAA)

Institution: University of Texas, El Paso

Title: MUREP Aerospace Academy for the Southwest (MAA Southwest)

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Our vision at the Aerospace Center (recently renamed from the Center for Space Exploration and Technology Research) at The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) is to exponentially expand our nation's talent-force by unleashing new opportunities for students from every background and every zip code through cutting-edge, applied research in aerospace. The goal of the MUREP Aerospace Academy for the Southwest (MAA Southwest) at UTEP is to inspire and prepare high school students in West Texas and Southern New Mexico who are underrepresented in STEM occupations for advanced studies and careers in STEM, particularly, aerospace-related fields. We will meet our goal by providing NASA mission-focused out-of-school learning and engagement activities for high school students in the MAA Southwest that includes experiential learning opportunities, field trips, engagement with STEM professionals and near-peer mentoring.

The MAA Southwest's focus will be high school students attending schools with low college enrollment rates and students who historically are underrepresented in STEM disciplines including females, Hispanics, African Americans, rural students, students who are economically disadvantaged, and students who live in rural areas. Our program design, program delivery and program outreach will be developed to make our program accessible and interesting to our target audience.