



NASA is partnering with the Housing and Urban Development and the Office of Neighborhood Networks to provide an after school program - the **Imagine Mars project**. For 12 weeks, JPL engineers and educators will be working with 20 students (age 11-17) from the **Neighborhood Networks Center in Long Beach (Northpointe Apartments)** to help them design a community on Mars through the 5 steps of the Imagine Mars Project (Reflect, Imagine, Discover, Create and Share. Upon completion, the students will create a digital story about the Imagine Mars Project. The kick-off event was last Thursday, February 3rd, and the final events will be on April 5 (at the Neighborhood Networks Center in Long Beach) and April 7 (at NASA/JPL in Pasadena). The students will have classes at the Neighborhood Center and at NASA/JPL campus in Pasadena.

Highlights of the program include: Professional Storyteller shares history of Long Beach, Job Fair with local professionals and mars engineers reflecting on Jobs on Mars, Webcast presentation on Feb. 24, focusing on women and robotics. The final events will provide an opportunity for the students to share their stories (JPL intend to invite local leaders etc).

The Imagine Mars project incorporates community development (in this case what it means to be a good citizen) with a consideration of the planet Mars and why it would be a difficult place to live. The project takes a look at the characteristics that "heroes" have possessed through history and asks students to think about whether people with those characteristics will be needed on Mars, and whether they are in needed on Earth too. The project will culminate with the students building models (newspaper stuffed, human sized) of the first martian inhabitants with their respective good citizen characteristics clearly defined.

After each class session, the engineer/scientist assistants will stick around to talk more about Mars and answer any questions. NASA/JPL will provide the teachers, the scientists and engineers, and materials and the fun!

Once the students have completed the Project, NASA/JPL will take pictures and upload it to the Imagine Mars gallery, where it can be viewed by other teachers, students, and Neighborhood Networks Centers across the country. More information about the project is at <http://imaginemars.jpl.nasa.gov>.