

# NASA's Digital Learning Network

*Education Team, Johnson Space Center*

NASA's Digital Learning Network (DLN) affects more than 23,000 participants annually via interactive two-way audio and video technology. This distance learning initiative provides a unique experience for students and educators at the K-12 and university levels, bringing NASA's unique content, facilities, and personnel right into their classrooms.

Standard DLN programs are a 50-minute videoconference experience delivered up to six times daily to classrooms and organizations across the country. The events are integrated educational packages of grade-appropriate instruction and activities delivered by a NASA education specialist or subject matter expert. These programs offer unique interactive learning opportunities that focus on studies in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Participants communicate with NASA experts and virtually explore working NASA facilities.



A DLN Challenge is an in-depth research-design experience that allows students to propose detailed elucidations to challenge criteria and present their solutions back to NASA. The Challenge involves more than one DLN connection, student involvement through research and design activities, and open-ended problem solving. Once the students have analyzed and gathered the required data, they conduct formal presentations back to NASA education specialists or subject matter experts to demonstrate their understanding and application of concepts.



Students participate in one of three Challenge areas: engineering design, research, or a mission operations problem. Events parallel NASA's bold new course into the cosmos – a journey that will take humans back to the Moon, and eventually to Mars and beyond.

The DLN annually supports a growing variety of special events that enable classrooms and organizations to be a part of NASA. The combination of videoconferencing technology and satellite communications enables the DLN to connect audiences to remote locations and communicate in real time with NASA scientists, astronauts, and researchers. Students are taken to extreme environments such as Antarctica, an underwater habitat, NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operations, or the edge of a meteor crater (Desert Research and Technology Studies).

Using interactive instructional technology in support of long-term retention of knowledge, the DLN delivers content as only NASA can. Learners at all levels have the opportunity to interact directly with NASA scientists and educational specialists to gain a new appreciation for the importance of science and education. NASA's DLN offers a complete solution for educators that uses technology, provides lessons focused on science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and geography, offers access to NASA facilities, as well as support to ensure an informative, engaging, and unique learning experience for students. For information, visit: <http://nasadln.nmsu.edu/dln/>.