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Peace Students Participate in Robotics Videoconference with NASA

Queen of Peace Robotics Team members and physics students participated in a videoconference with NASA on Wednesday, Oct. 7 in the Peace Media Center.

Employees from the NASA Ames Research Center, which is home to the Robotics Alliance Project focusing on robotics education, discussed the most recent developments in robotics, including the Mars space rover, K-9, and the K10 Lunar rover project.

Of the schools that listened to the videoconference, Peace students were selected to ask questions of the two NASA women engineers via Peace's videoconferencing capabilities. Sophomore Mary McKeown and junior Lindsey Frederick, both members of last year's Robotics Team, wanted to know if the women faced challenges working in a male-dominated field such as engineering and as NASA employees. The NASA engineers told Peace's students "not to sell yourself short and to be confident in the things you have learned and accomplished."

"Listening to NASA engineers was a wonderful and rare opportunity for the students," said Robotics Team coach Karen Amador. "It may inspire some students to consider a career they had not thought of. The students also learned how a simple activity like making a robot walk in a computer program is a series of complex steps and calculations."

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