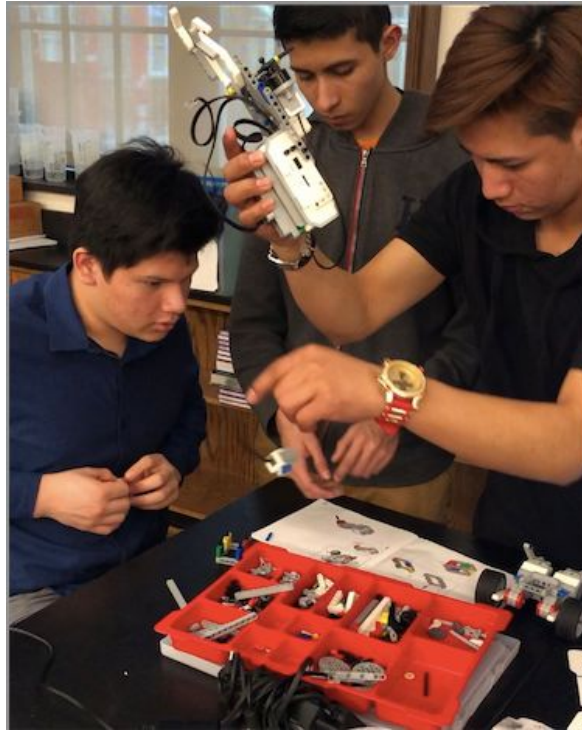


Engineering our Future



This is me at the left, during our after-school Robotics club at Roosevelt High School.

My name is Andrews Torres, and I am 15 years old. Two years ago, I moved here in the United States from El Salvador with big dreams. Now, with the help of my teachers, I want to make this dream happen, by going to Space Camp.

Ever since I was a little kid, I wanted to build things. Now I am in high school and I am part of my school's Robotics Club. I love Math and Science. I often struggle to understand because I am still learning English. But I work hard everyday, and I know that someday, I will get better. In college, I want to major in Mechanical Engineering so that someday, I can build the next rocket that will go to Mars.

I want to go to Space Camp because I want to learn more about the current space exploration efforts, and rocket engineering. I want to learn about latest scientific discoveries, like life or minerals in other planets. I want to know how scientists and engineers design technology to travel to other planets. At Space Camp, I want to learn about the type of engineering that is used to send rockets into space.

I am Latino, and that means there is not much opportunity for me. But I refuse to believe that because Dr. Franklin Chang Diaz, the first Hispanic astronaut, also came to the United States not knowing how to speak in English. He is my inspiration, because everyday in this country, as an immigrant, is difficult. But he was able to do it, and he reached for his dream. Now he is a successful astronaut, and he is leading important research in plasma rocket engines. I want to be like him. Starting with this opportunity, I CAN be like him.

