



Into the Heart of Mars

Past, Present and Future of Mars
Exploration

Into the Heart of Mars

DATE: Tuesday, May 1, 2018

TIME: 4:00 pm

WHERE: University of Miami
Knight Physics Auditorium
Knight Physics Bldg., Rm 112
Coral Gables, FL 33146

A 45 minute presentation that will explore the past, present and future of Mars exploration to coincide with the upcoming launch to Mars of Insight on May 5, 2018 (<https://mars.nasa.gov/insight/>).

Into the Heart of Mars is a remarkable voyage to a planet that has fascinated us for centuries. The presentation highlights the scientific information and discovery over 400 years of astronomical observations and robotic exploration. NASA's evolving science strategies for Mars exploration have evolved over time from Following the Water to Exploring Habitability to Seeking Signs of Life to Preparation for Human Exploration. About 3.8-3.5 billion years ago, Mars and Earth were much more similar. Why did Mars undergo dramatic changes to become the forbidding, yet promising, planet we observe today? Might Mars provide a future habitat for human explorers someday in the future?

About the Presenter:



Armando Rodriguez is an educator, Solar System Ambassador, former engineer and a senior member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA). As an engineer, he supported multiple programs with mechanical engineering, computational fluid dynamics analysis, test data analysis, and design for underwater vehicles, thrusters, structures and electronic equipment assemblies. As an educator, he developed and implemented a project-based learning curriculum for Introduction to Aerospace Engineering Design incorporating space flight simulators as an interactive learning tool. He has mentored student teams in the Conrad Challenge, Team America Rocketry Challenge, FIRST Robotics and numerous other academic and engineering competitions. As a Solar System Ambassador, a volunteer spokesperson for NASA, he shares the latest science and discoveries of NASA's space exploration missions through a variety of events in the South Florida communities. Currently, he teaches AP Physics, mentors student STEM teams and leads the instruction and expansion of the Project Lead the Way Engineering curriculum at Christopher Columbus High School.

https://solarsystem1.jpl.nasa.gov/ssa/biography.cfm?US_ID=1762