

## **DELAWARE TECH STUDENT SELECTED BY NASA FOR DESIGN PROGRAM**

*Only 76 Aerospace Scholars selected nationwide*



Robin Depto, NASA Aerospace Scholar from Delaware Technical & Community College

**Wilmington, DE**—Delaware Technical & Community College Computer Information Systems (CIS) student Robin Depto has been selected as an Aerospace Scholar, one of only 76 students representing community colleges across the country. He will travel to NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, May 20-22, to participate in a three-day on-site event to develop robotic explorers.

Robin graduated from Delaware Tech with his associate degree in CIS in 2005, and has continued taking engineering courses to enhance his degree. A participant in the National Community College Aerospace Scholars pilot program, Depto completed four web-based assignments during the school year, and his exemplary work qualified him for this experience. As part of the program, participants will form teams and establish fictitious companies interested in Mars exploration. Working with NASA engineers, each will develop a prototype rover, and form a company infrastructure, including budget, communications and presentations. The on-site experience includes a tour of Johnson, and briefings by NASA employees, including astronauts.

“We are so proud of Robin and all that he has accomplished,” remarked Mary Marchegiano, chair of Delaware Tech’s Electronics / Electrical Technology program. NASA’s Johnson program manager Deborah Hutchings agreed: "These students have a unique opportunity to preview how a career in science, technology, engineering or math can lead them on a journey of space exploration."

The National Community College Aerospace Scholars is a pilot program based on the Texas Aerospace Scholars, both of which are designed to encourage community and junior college students to enter careers in science and engineering, and join the nation's high technology workforce.

Delaware Tech’s commitment to preparing its students for technology careers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace mirrors this commitment.

For a complete list of the students selected and the community colleges they represent, visit:

[http://www.nasa.gov/offices/education/programs/descriptions/National\\_Community\\_College\\_Aerospace\\_Scholars.html](http://www.nasa.gov/offices/education/programs/descriptions/National_Community_College_Aerospace_Scholars.html). For more information about NASA's National Community College Aerospace Scholars, visit: <http://aerospacescholars.jsc.nasa.gov/NCAS>.