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## Embassy of the United States of America Public Affairs Section

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### **U.S. Embassy Chargé d’Affaires Presents NASA Scholarships to two Bolivian Students**

Today, the Chargé d’Affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Bolivia Kris Urs presented two NASA International Space School Foundation scholarships to two Bolivian high school students. Outstanding students Santiago Murillo of the Cochabamba Cooperative School, and Hugo Ignacio Mobarec of San Ignacio School in La Paz, received the scholarships this year.

For five years in a row, the Commercial Section of the Embassy of the United States, with support from American companies in Bolivia, has funded travel and lodging costs of young Bolivians who win a scholarship to participate in an international program that gathers exceptional high school students from 20 countries. Together, they experience the unique aspects of preparing a mission to Mars. The winners are selected on the basis of their excellent academic performance in chemistry, mathematics, physics, and psychology. Also, they must have good English language skills, relevant extracurricular activities, and the ability to represent Bolivia abroad. So far, eight Bolivian students from Santa Cruz, Oruro, Cochabamba, and La Paz have been awarded scholarships.

The International Space School Foundation works to make these scholarships possible so that deserving high school students from all over the world have a chance to engage in space-related academic courses and receive encouragement to consider a career in the aeronautical and space industry.

The foundation offers an opportunity for international students to participate in several space project initiatives, such as contributing to the development of the *Mission to Mars Project*. It also provides them with specialized teaching by experts and managers of the air and space sector. The young participants also engage in teamwork in a multicultural environment. Approximately 250 students from all over the world, representing 48 countries, have already participated in this exciting program. After completing the course, the students go back to their countries and share their experiences with families, friends, classmates, and communities.