

A Celebration of Life Field Trip to the Bell Burnell Observatory

Tuesday, June 21st, 2022: Participants of the African American Ethnic Academy/BTC Institute's Summer Space Science Program, "A Celebration of Life XXVII: Planetary Explorers!" went to the Bell Burnell Observatory, a recent addition to the BTC Institute's resources for educational programming.



Before entering the building, students were welcomed outside as they exchanged space knowledge with Geoff Holt and Ben Senson (former and current director of the MMSD Planetarium, respectively).



Students then gathered in the library to work through a thought exercise of filling up water bottle in the rain as a comparison to a telescope's ability to collect light.



From there, students were able climb upstairs to see the telescope and learn how it operates.



After their descent from the observatory dome, students engaged in a lively Q&A with Geoff which included questions about the moon and astrobiology.



When asked at the end of their visit if they would like to come back in the fall for an evening at the observatory, there was emphatic interest!