HAMPTON — The simulator used at NASA Langley Research Center to help train astronauts for their moon journey is to be restored by students at New Horizons Technical Center.

The Lunar Excursion Module Simulator will be moved from NASA Langley to the vocational high school Friday so that work can begin.

Once restored, the simulator is expected to be one of the main exhibits in downtown Hampton's Virginia Air and Space Center, which is planned to open in 1992.

The module was part of Langley's Lunar Landing Research Facility, built in 1965. Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin and 22 other astronauts used the facility to practice problems they could have encountered within their last 150 feet of descent to the moon.

In 1985, the National Parks Service declared the facility and the simulator National Historic Landmarks.

New Horizons, located at 520 Butler Farm Road, is a regional vocational school that offers technical courses to students from six area school districts, including 14 high schools. The school also serves as one of Virginia's high schools for gifted science students.

Top students from the school's sheet metal, auto body, drafting, machine shop and metal fabrication departments will be working on the restoration over the next two years, said Patrick Konopnicki, principal of the Bulter Farm campus. NASA engineers and scientists who originally worked on the project will have discussion sessions with the students, he said.

"It gives them a real outgrowth of what they've been studying," he said. "It helps them transcend from book knowledge to practical experience."