

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Astronaut Scholarship Foundation Announces the 2021 Class of Astronaut Scholars**

**ORLANDO** – The [Astronaut Scholarship Foundation](#) (ASF) is proud to award and welcome their 2021 Class of Astronaut Scholars. In total, 60 college students from 44 colleges across the United States will receive up to almost \$900,000. The 2021 Class of Astronaut Scholars will be presented during ASF's Innovators Gala taking place on August 14, 2021, at the Hilton Orlando.

ASF's [Astronaut Scholarship](#) is offered to junior or senior year college students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The process of obtaining an Astronaut Scholarship begins with nominations from professors or faculty members at an ASF-partnering university. Upon selection, each student receives a scholarship of up to \$15,000, opportunities to expand their network to include astronauts, alumni and industry leaders, participation in the Michael Collins Family Professional Development Program, and an invitation to attend ASF's Innovators Week. ASF's Innovators Week celebrates and awards the Astronaut Scholars and provides an opportunity for the Astronaut Scholars to present their research at a technical conference.

“Our 2021 Astronaut Scholarship award program reflects our commitment to the best and brightest minds in the fields of STEM” said Caroline Schumacher, President and CEO of ASF. “The challenges of the past year were met head on and managed with great success. We are so honored to support, fuel and inspire all of our 2021 Astronaut Scholars in the process of leadership in science and technology.”

“The Astronaut Scholarship is more than just an award. It is an opportunity to join a community of life-long learners who share a common goal of contributing to the technological development of our society. The Astronaut Scholarship's legacy stretches back decades. I am excited to know that I will be a part of carrying it forward for many years to come” said Jonah Stiel, Astronaut Scholar 2020 & 2021, majoring in Chemistry at the University of Kansas.

The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation was founded in 1984 by the six surviving Mercury 7 Astronauts, in addition to Betty Grissom, widow of the seventh. The first seven ASF scholarships were awarded in honor of all seven Mercury Astronauts in 1986. Each of the founding members sponsored a \$1,000 scholarship and began to fundraise to support future scholarships by donating proceeds from their speaking engagements. The incredible efforts of these legends have shaped ASF's mission to support and reward the best college students pursuing degrees in STEM education. Over the past 36 years, more than \$5,000,000 has been awarded to more than 600 college students pursuing degrees in STEM fields.

To learn more about the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation and the Astronaut Scholarship, click [here](#).

**[About Astronaut Scholarship Foundation](#)**

The [Astronaut Scholarship Foundation](#) (ASF) is an Orlando-based, 501(c)3 nonprofit commemorating the legacy of America's pioneering astronauts. Founded by the six surviving Mercury 7 Astronauts in 1984, ASF partners with industry leaders, universities and individual donors to achieve its mission of supporting and rewarding the best and brightest college students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of the Treasury policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

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