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May 27, 2022

Astronaut Scholarship Foundation Announces its 2022 Class of Astronaut Scholars *Organization honors 68 students from 45 colleges with nearly \$1 million in financial support*

ORLANDO – The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation (ASF) today announced 68 undergraduate students from 45 universities and colleges across the United States have been named to the organization's 2022 class of Astronaut Scholars. These exceptional students in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) will collectively receive up to nearly \$1 million in financial support. ASF will present this year's Astronaut Scholars during its Innovators Gala on Aug. 27, 2022, at the Hilton Orlando.

The 2022 class includes the inaugural group of Astronaut Scholars in ASF's Founders for the Future program, which was created using a \$1 million grant from Blue Origin's nonprofit, Club for the Future. Named in honor of ASF's founders, the Mercury 7 Astronauts, the program will select an additional seven Astronaut Scholars each year for the next seven years from seven current university partners.

"Every year, we are blown away by the dozens of extraordinary undergraduate students who are dedicated to pursuing STEM to help create a better life here on Earth," said Caroline Schumacher, ASF's president and CEO. "This year is extra special to us because we've been able to expand our impact through the Founders for the Future program. Ultimately, we are fueling the career paths of these students, who are destined to make lasting contributions in their chosen STEM fields and become the game-changers of tomorrow."

ASF's Astronaut Scholarship is offered to junior- or senior-year college students pursuing degrees in STEM. The process 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. Other benefits include: networking and mentoring opportunities with astronauts, alumni and industry leaders; participation in the Michael Collins Family Professional Development Program; and a paid trip to attend ASF's Innovators Week, which provides an opportunity for the Astronaut Scholars to present their research at a technical conference.

"Being an Astronaut Scholar is a lifelong, life changing experience that I will forever be grateful for. As a non-traditional student, I have always maintained a job to make ends meet and help pay my way through school, but the gracious award associated with this scholarship allowed me to take time off from work during my senior year. This gave me the chance to focus on my research and become more active within my community as a mentor and leader. This scholarship is much more than just an award, however. It is an opportunity to grow, to have your endeavors supported, and your definition of "what is possible" redefined. Additionally, it offers the opportunity to connect with a network of extremely driven, hard working individuals who have a common desire to push the bounds of technology and want nothing less than to see you succeed. I am extremely thankful for the support and mentorship that the ASF has offered."

-- Terelle Cadd / 2021 Astronaut Scholar / Virginia Tech College of Engineering



Created in 1984, ASF awarded its first seven scholarships in honor of its founding members, the Mercury 7 Astronauts — Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper, John Glenn, Virgil “Gus” Grissom, Walter Schirra, Alan Shepard, and Deke Slayton. Each founding member 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 exceptional college students pursuing degrees in STEM. Over the past 38 years, more than \$7 million has been awarded to more than 700 college students.

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 exceptional 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 based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

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