



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Astronaut Scholarship Foundation Announces the
2022 Neil Armstrong™ Award of Excellence Recipient**

ORLANDO – The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation (ASF) is proud to announce 1998 Astronaut Scholar Alum, Trent C. Kingery, as the 2022 Neil Armstrong™ Award of Excellence recipient.

Kingery, a PhD candidate in Systems Engineering from Colorado State University, earned a Master of Science from the Naval Postgraduate School, a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering from North Carolina State University, and a Bachelor of Science in Electronic Systems Technology from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Kingery was awarded the Astronaut Scholarship while attending North Carolina State University in 1998.

The presentation of this year's Neil Armstrong™ Award of Excellence will take place in Orlando, Florida during ASF's Innovators Week & Gala, August 24-27, 2022.

"I am honored to be awarded the Neil Armstrong™ Award of Excellence, an award that I will cherish for the rest of my life," Kingery said. "This prestigious award was created by Neil's children to honor his legacy and is supported by the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation and the Innovators Week & Gala sponsors. Neil Armstrong is a name recognized globally from first graders through senior adults. Many careers have been influenced by his accomplishments which include his dedication towards STEM and his famous quote 'That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.' I am included among those many people who have always looked up to him, idolized him, and wanted to be like him. With humble and deeply felt gratitude, I again thank the Armstrong family, the sponsors of the Innovators Week & Gala, and the Board of Directors of the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation for bestowing this honor upon me."

The Neil Armstrong™ Award of Excellence was established in 2016 through a partnership with the Purdue Research Foundation, the Armstrong family and Jim Hays, a friend of Neil Armstrong's. Intended to pay tribute to the legacy of Armstrong and his fellow space explorers, this honor is bestowed upon an Astronaut Scholar alumni who exemplifies personal character and professional achievement, mirroring the core values of its namesake.

"I am honored to serve as the Selection Committee Chairman for the Neil Armstrong™ Award of Excellence," said Michael Griffin, former Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering of the United States. "Our committee continues to be amazed at the achievements and contributions of the Astronaut Scholar Alumni through their research, innovation, and volunteerism. Selecting one out of the many applicants proves to be extremely challenging each year. We are proud to award the 2022 Neil Armstrong™ Award of Excellence to Astronaut Scholar Alum Trent Kingery for his high achievements, strong character, military prowess and valor, and his dedication to the United States of America."



For more than 24 years, Kingery served in the United States Marine Corps as an FA-18 Pilot, Head Flight Instructor, Acquisition Professional, and Avionics Technician. He participated in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom and accumulated nine Strike/Flight Air Medal awards, flew 695.0 combat flight hours, flew 175 combat missions, and accumulated 165 carrier-arrested landings during his military career. Kingery honorably retired from the United States Marine Corps in 2014.

Since military retirement, Kingery has served in numerous positions including his current role of Chief Aviation Safety Office for the Flight Operations Directorate at NASA's Johnson Space Center. He is a Supervisory Research Pilot, serves on the Board of Directors of Flight Operations and has accumulated over 4,000 flight hours in more than 23 aircraft. Kingery also owns Vertical Views Photography®, a professional aerial photography business.

To learn more about the Neil Armstrong™ Award of Excellence and its previous recipients, 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, astronauts, 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).

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Griffin Communications Group
Stephanie Black; stephanie@griffincg.com