



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 18, 2023

Astronaut Scholarship Foundation Announces its 2023 Class of Astronaut Scholars

Organization honors 68 students from 46 colleges with more than \$1 million in financial support

ORLANDO – The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation (ASF) announced today that 68 undergraduate students from 46 universities and colleges across the United States have been named to the organization’s 2023 class of Astronaut Scholars. These exceptional students, pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) will collectively receive up to more than \$1 million in financial support. ASF will present this year’s Astronaut Scholars during its Innovators Week & Gala on Aug. 16-19, 2023, at the Hilton Orlando.

"The 2023 Class of Astronaut Scholars is truly exceptional and embodies the passion, dedication and innovation that will propel us into the future of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics," said Caroline Schumacher, ASF’s president and CEO. "We are excited to support these outstanding individuals in their endeavors and cannot wait to witness their achievements as the game-changers of tomorrow."

ASF’s Astronaut Scholarship is offered to junior and 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 & Gala featuring the Neil Armstrong™ Award of Excellence, which provides an opportunity for the Astronaut Scholars to present their research at a technical conference.

"The Astronaut Scholarship introduced me to some of the most incredible people I have ever met – the astronauts, the ASF staff, and the other scholars are an absolute inspiration to me," said Samantha Sequeira, 2022 Florida Institute of Technology Astronaut Scholar. "ASF believed in me when my own belief in myself wavered and pushed me to continue to shoot for the moon. I could not be more grateful."

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 39 years, more than \$8.3 million has been awarded to nearly 800 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.

###

MEDIA CONTACT:

Griffin Communications Group
Stephanie Kruger; stephanie@griffincg.com