“THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE CAN DO IS INSPIRE YOUNG MINDS AND TO ADVANCE THE KIND OF SCIENCE, MATH AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION THAT WILL HELP YOUNGSTERS TAKE US TO THE NEXT PHASE OF SPACE TRAVEL.”

–Mercury 7 Astronaut and ASF Founder, John Glenn

OUR VISION
The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation (ASF) seeks to inspire and encourage Astronaut Scholars to embody the highly respected astronaut characteristics, such as intelligence, ambition, self-motivation, high ethical standards, persistence, adaptability, and a passion for science, exploration, and innovation. This focus will aid in placing the best American scholars in positions that will positively change and influence society.
Join us as we build promise and hope for a brighter future.

The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation fuels America’s top scholars paving the way to the next frontier. The non-profit organization launched in 1984 when the six surviving Mercury 7 astronauts joined forces to pursue a mission that still stands today...

“To aid the United States in retaining its world leadership in technology and innovation by supporting the very best and brightest scholars in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics while commemorating the legacy of America’s pioneering astronauts.”

Since that time, astronauts from the Gemini, Apollo, Skylab, Space Shuttle and ISS programs have also embraced this noble mission. Today, ASF continues the passion for progress forged by these legendary heroes to provide today’s explorers with the critical connections and vital support they need to make their own trailblazing discoveries.
Next-Generation Fuel

The Astronaut Scholarship is regarded as one of the most prestigious and largest, STEM-focused monetary awards of its kind. Every year, more than 55 of the most exceptional STEM undergraduate students in the U.S. receive scholarships valued up to $15,000 each. As Astronaut Scholars, these emerging pioneers also gain access to exclusive opportunities that fuel them to push innovative boundaries:

Mentorship Program

Astronaut Scholars connect with leading executives for one-on-one mentoring to help guide the Scholars’ transition into the post-graduate professional world. Executives share career advice and valuable knowledge that help scholars build networks and develop skills to become strong professionals and leaders.

"The Astronaut Scholarship has been one of the greatest opportunities that I have received. Not only has it relieved a huge financial burden, but it has opened countless doors for my academic and professional development. I consistently talk to my mentor, Dr. Passty, about my direction moving forward. She walks me through my next steps to becoming a well-balanced engineer in an extremely vast, competitive field. I could not be more thankful for the opportunity to call myself an Astronaut Scholar."

~ Nathaneal Adkins, 2020 Astronaut Scholar

The Michael Collins Family Professional Development Program

This program provides coaching, business skills, leadership development training, and professional insights based on real-world experiences to help Astronaut Scholars prepare to become tomorrow’s STEM leaders.

American Dream Makers Program

ASF connects Astronaut Scholars who have a new business concept or invention with successful entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, and industry leaders. Through these critical relationships, Scholars receive the advice, guidance, and other support they need to advance their vision and achieve their goals.

“I had come up with a business idea to develop and implement new automation technologies in a field of manufacturing I was familiar with, and I expressed interest in pursuing it through a scholar profile system ASF had set up. ASF reached out to me and asked if I would like to participate in the American Dream Makers program - a new mentorship program put together specifically for assisting scholars in building their own businesses.

I was paired with mentors that had incredibly relevant experiences building their own successful companies in similar industries. Through their mentorship, I put together a business plan, learned about accounting, tax planning, and ways to minimize expenses, and have been introduced to potential future partners. I am currently building out Automated Manufacturing Technologies’ first manufacturing line with plans to scale it as demand for services increases.”

~ Bradley Caponigro, 2016 Astronaut Scholar
Powering Discoveries

Astronaut Scholars gain knowledge, test the limits, and help advance their individual STEM fields. Their lasting breakthroughs in science and technology positively impact society for years to come.

1999 Astronaut Scholar, Belinda Shreckengost

- Thermal Systems Engineer at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory who joined the Mars 2020 mission in 2015.
- Supported the project through the design phase, hardware fabrication, assembly, and hardware testing. Responsible for verifying that the system can maintain spacecraft temperatures within acceptable limits – both during the Cruise to Mars and during Rover surface operations.

“I was both excited and honored to receive my scholarship in 1999, when I realized this organization of history making astronauts and space enthusiasts was recognizing me for my potential in STEM and future work in aerospace. The money itself was critical in helping me fund my college education, but the inspiration continues to drive me today. I’m so grateful to be part of ASF alumni, and to have the opportunity to connect with fellow members. But, I consider myself truly privileged to participate in ASF’s mentoring program and to be a part of the journey for the next generation.”

2009 Astronaut Scholar, Cole Kazemba

- Aerospace Engineer at NASA Ames Research Center.
- Working on entry vehicle technology development with his primary focus on the Dragonfly Mission.

“Receiving the Astronaut Scholarship is one of the greatest honors of my life today. That is because of the incredible people that I got to know as a result of being welcomed into the ASF family. The biggest value of the Astronaut Scholarship, for me, was tapping into the inspiration of my peers. That network helped put me on the path I am on today. It helped unlock my childhood dream of working at NASA. I think the biggest strength of the Foundation is the scholars themselves.”

2009 Astronaut Scholar, Andrew Ishizuka

- Co-Founder and Chief Scientific Officer of Avidia Technologies, a biotech developing novel immunotherapies for cancer and autoimmune diseases.
- He has become an expert in T-cell immunology and translational research.
- His company’s work developed a groundbreaking, peptide-based cancer vaccine.

“The validation and support of ASF launched me into dual-degree training in medicine and immunology. I’ll also never forget the visit to KSC, especially seeing the shuttle engines up close. That trip continues to inspire me – even to this day – to push the limits of my field.”

2014 Astronaut Scholar, Michael Markesbery

- Co-Founder and CEO of OROS, which uses NASA-inspired technology to develop performance apparel for some of the coldest climates ON EARTH.
- Recognized as a Forbes “30 Under 30” businessperson.

“Receiving the Astronaut Scholarship was an empowering experience. To have an astronaut fly to my college and present the scholarship to me – to have an institution like ASF believe in me and my work – gave me confidence in myself. And it doesn’t end upon receipt of the scholarship. There is a large community. You are always an Astronaut Scholar.”
ASF nurtures valuable innovators in multiple disciplines who enter society destined to strengthen America’s position as a global technology leader.

**Astronaut Scholar Fields of Study:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Sciences</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aerospace and Astronomy</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meteorology and Climate</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optical Engineering and Science</td>
<td>1%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

"The thing I love about the Astronaut Scholarship is that it is not only a tremendous opportunity to showcase the excellence of our best STEM majors to the world, it is also a way to demonstrate to our students (who tend to be more modest than they should be) just how outstanding they are! Seeing their names alongside those Astronaut Scholars from institutions like MIT, Georgia Tech, Michigan, Texas, and Washington University really brings home how much our Texas A&M Astronaut Scholars have accomplished and what incredible potential for the future they represent, potential that the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation helps bring to fruition."

-Sumana Datta, Texas A&M University
CORPORATE OPPORTUNITIES

ASF offers businesses and corporations numerous opportunities to take part in fueling a new generation of explorers.

- **Astronaut Scholarship Sponsorship** — Sponsoring a partial or full scholarship for an Astronaut Scholar at one of ASF’s partner universities.

- **Astronaut Scholar Program Fund** — Scholars receive additional educational experiences beyond the scholarship money.

- **Event Sponsorships** — ASF hosts various fundraising events to help fuel the next generation in STEM, while continuing to commemorate the legacy of America’s pioneering astronauts.

- **Company Matching Gift / Workplace Giving** — Companies of all sizes can support ASF through employee-giving options or matching gifts.

- **Cause Marketing / Product Collaborations** — Boost product awareness and collaborate with ASF on a product launch or marketing campaign.

- **Foundations / Grants** — In line with many corporate giving strategies, ASF helps drive STEM education in young adults keeping the United States at the forefront of technology and innovation.
EVENT OPPORTUNITIES

ASF holds first-class events throughout the year to honor and celebrate our Astronaut Scholars, significant space anniversaries, and the bold few who took great risks to better humankind through space exploration:

• **U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame® Gala** – Every year, the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame® honors a new class of astronauts who have excelled in their accomplishments to help advance space exploration. Join the evening’s attending astronauts as we celebrate the newest inductees while dining under the MASSIVE 363-foot Saturn V Rocket.

• **Innovators Week & Gala** – This event brings together young, exceptional minds in STEM, corporations who are making an impact within STEM industries, and MANY of America’s pioneering astronauts. Join us as we welcome, celebrate, and award the new class of Astronaut Scholars and announce the recipient of the Neil Armstrong™ Award of Excellence. ASF grants this award to an Astronaut Scholar Alum who exemplifies a level of personal character, professional achievement, and impact in his/her field that mirrors those same characteristics of the legendary Apollo 11 astronaut.

• **Space Rendezvous** – Space Rendezvous is an opportunity to meet dozens of American legends. Hear from NASA’s pioneering astronauts as they share stories from history-making missions. Rendezvous with other like-minded individuals to discuss all aspects of human space flight.

• **Anniversary Events** – The mission of ASF not only encourages university students to pursue scientific excellence but honors the legacies of America’s pioneering astronauts. We do so by celebrating various space exploration milestones and anniversaries. Each anniversary event pays tribute to the men and women who made history in space; from those who helped man take the first steps on the Moon to the many who flew record-breaking Space Shuttle missions.

• **Other Events** – ASF hosts additional events that have historically been held in a virtual setting. Live Chat with an Astronaut gives K-12 students an opportunity to interact with an American hero in a small group setting. The Scientific Connections Conference is an opportunity for Astronaut Scholar Alumni to present their research or current work alongside industry professionals. The American Dream Makers Showcase is geared towards Astronaut Scholars who are pursuing entrepreneurial endeavors.
UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

ASF partners with the country’s top ranked, prestigious colleges and universities conducting graduate level research in STEM disciplines.
ADDITIONAL FACTS

To date, ASF has awarded more than $7 million to 677 undergraduate students pursuing STEM-based fields of study. These Astronaut Scholars have achieved the following:

- **Bachelor’s Degrees**: 846
- **Master’s Degrees**: 251
- **Doctoral Degrees**: 264
- **Published Technical Papers**: 2,308
- **Patents**: 123

LEADERSHIP

ASF is supported by a robust board of directors and board of trustees made up of retired astronauts, Astronaut Scholars, accomplished business professionals, and national industry leaders.

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