

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**George and Lisa Schott endow \$150,000 to the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation
to bolster the organization's vibrant scholar programs for decades to come**

ORLANDO – The [Astronaut Scholarship Foundation](#) (ASF) today announced a transformative contribution of \$150,000 from philanthropists George and Lisa Schott to launch the George and Lisa Schott S.P.A.C.E. (Scholar Programs for Achievement, Confidence and Engagement) Endowment, which will provide current and future Astronaut Scholars with a broad range of valuable resources beyond their scholarship.

"In the spirit of National Mentorship Month and ASF's 40th anniversary, the George and Lisa Schott S.P.A.C.E. Endowment underscores the importance of giving our scholars the support and resources they need to make incredible contributions in a variety of STEM fields," said Caroline Schumacher, CEO and president of ASF. "This generous contribution not only supports our current programs, but also ensures the sustainability and growth of our mission to empower and inspire future STEM leaders for many years to come."

The endowment will support funding for pivotal Astronaut Scholar programs, including:

- The [Michael Collins Family Professional Development Program](#), which provides Astronaut Scholars with tools they need to evolve into dynamic industry professionals, including: the Astronaut Scholar Technical Conference, networking events, professional development sessions, various workshops and poster sessions, and STEM speaking opportunities.
- [One-on-one mentoring](#) with leading industry professionals, astronauts and Astronaut Scholar Alumni to help Astronaut Scholars build career networks and develop professional and leadership skills as they transition to a post-college world.
- The [Innovators Symposium & Gala featuring the Neil Armstrong™ Award of Excellence](#) honors the newest class of Astronaut Scholars and provides them with a multi-day experience, including a professional expo, networking opportunities, professional development sessions and the Astronaut Scholar Technical Conference.
- The [American Dream Makers](#) program, which helps entrepreneurial Astronaut Scholars advance their innovative ideas, business ventures and initiatives.
- The Astronaut Scholar Alumni Travel Grant allows young alumni the chance to experience signature ASF events at no cost and provides opportunities for networking and career development with industry leaders.

"On behalf of ASF, we are incredibly excited about the creation of the George and Lisa Schott S.P.A.C.E. Endowment because it will support all of the beneficial programs that the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation provides to its outstanding scholars," said Curt Brown, ASF Board of Directors Chairman, Ret. U.S. Air Force Col. and Ret. NASA Astronaut STS-47, STS-66, STS-77, STS-85, STS-95 and STS-103. "And, for this to be initiated by one of our earliest scholarship recipients demonstrates the impact and importance of the ASF mission!"

The couple's connection with the ASF spans decades and has left an indelible mark on the organization. Lisa was one of the first Astronaut Scholars from 1987-1989 while attending Georgia Institute of Technology and worked closely with the ASF founders — the six surviving Mercury 7 astronauts, Betty Grissom, Dr. William Douglas and Henri Landwirth. After years of involvement, both Lisa and George have experienced life-changing benefits from this group's mentorship, and their vision for the Astronaut Scholarship became clear: the scholarship funds should only be the beginning, and the impact should be lifelong.

"The George and Lisa Schott S.P.A.C.E. Endowment is more than just financial aid. It's about providing a comprehensive platform for innovators to excel in their academic and professional careers," said Lisa Schott. "We have personally experienced and witnessed the incredible impact of the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation's programs and are committed to ensuring these opportunities thrive for generations to come." George adds, "This endowment is our way of investing in a future where the innovative dreams and aspirations of Astronaut Scholars are launched higher, making a positive impact on society. We plan to stay involved for a long time to come, and we hope others will share our vision and support the endowment."

Today, Lisa assumes a pivotal leadership role at the ASF as the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, Interim Chair of the Board of Trustees and Chair of the Strategic Planning Task Force. Other involvement includes serving as a member of the Executive Committee and the Scholarship Selection Committee, previous chair of the Program Committee and mentoring current Astronaut Scholars. She and George were the visionary force behind the American Dream Makers program and Lisa founded the Astronaut Scholars Honor Society, which exemplifies their unwavering commitment to cultivating a strong sense of community and camaraderie among past scholarship recipients.

For more information about the couple, as well as the George and Lisa Schott S.P.A.C.E. Endowment, click [here](#).

About the 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 in 1984 by the six surviving Mercury 7 Astronauts, ASF partners with industry leaders, universities and individual donors to support and reward exceptional college students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Over the past 40 years, more than \$8.3 million has been awarded to nearly 800 college students. 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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