



2017

ANNUAL REPORT



**ASTRONAUT
SCHOLARSHIP
FOUNDATION**

CREATED BY THE MERCURY 7 ASTRONAUTS



HISTORY OF ASF

The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation (ASF) was created in 1984 by: the six surviving Mercury 7 astronauts (Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper, John Glenn, Walter Schirra, Alan Shepard and Deke Slayton); Betty Grissom (widow of the seventh astronaut, Virgil “Gus” Grissom); William Douglas, M.D. (The Project Mercury flight surgeon); and Henri Landwirth (Orlando businessman and friend). Together they represented a wealth of collective influence, which was particularly suited to encouraging university students pursuing scientific excellence. Their mission was to ensure the United States would be the global leader in technology for decades to come.

Since that time, astronauts from the Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, Skylab, and Space Shuttle programs have also embraced this noble mission. ASF partners with industry leaders, universities, and individual donors to reward the best and brightest university students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) with substantial scholarships. The prestigious Astronaut Scholarship is known nationwide for being among the largest merit-based monetary scholarships awarded to undergraduate STEM juniors and seniors. ASF has a life-long relationship with each Astronaut Scholar and provides them with mentors, professional and personal development, and networking with astronauts, C-suite level executives, and industry leaders to help advance their careers.

ASTRONAUT SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION ABOUT ASF

ASF | Created by the Mercury 7 Astronauts

OVERVIEW

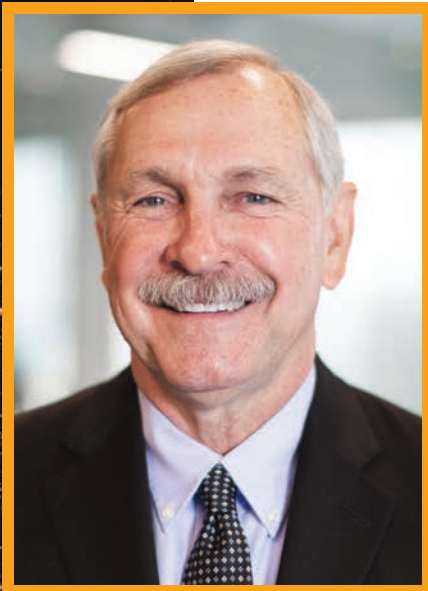
The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation (ASF) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides 50 scholarships annually to the brightest and most talented college students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

MISSION

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.

VISION

ASF seeks to inspire, encourage, and facilitate Astronaut Scholars to embody the highly respected astronaut characteristics, such as intelligence, ambition, self-motivation, high ethical standards, persistence, tenacity, 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.



CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD MESSAGE

As I round out my first-year as Board Chairman, I have a deeper appreciation for the impact of the Foundation that is made possible by each of you. It is said that our Founders, the Mercury 7 astronauts, had *The Right Stuff*...and I believe the same can be said of everyone involved with the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation. In 2017, we embarked on our new strategic plan that had a strong focus on increasing our support and impact on the lives of Astronaut Scholars. Through our corporate support and the dedication of numerous volunteers and supporters, we are making that difference for the scholars. We recognized our first astronaut scholar winner of the Neil Armstrong Award of Excellence, who best exemplified the character, achievement, and impact of its namesake. The gala event also hosted the incoming class of 2017/2018 scholars for a weekend of networking events and professional development. It was through the support of Jim Hays and the Armstrong family that this was made possible.

As the world looks on to celebrate the *50th Anniversaries of Apollo*, ASF will be front and center. In 2019, the United States Mint will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the historic Apollo 11 mission by producing and selling commemorative coins. One-fourth of the surcharges are authorized to be paid to the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation. Additional surcharges are authorized to be paid to the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum and the Astronauts Memorial Foundation.

This year, ASF launches *On the Shoulders of Giants*, an 18-month fundraising campaign to match the potential surcharges from the sale of the commemorative coins. This campaign not only honors the vast accomplishments of the mission, but the entire journey from the beginning through present day and into the future. This is a significant moment for ASF's legacy. This is a significant moment for our community's future. We must seize it. We need your help to celebrate and honor the early space program while communicating to the world our mission of supporting the best and brightest STEM scholars, who are standing *On the Shoulders of Giants*. The success of this campaign and sale of coins will give way to the future of the next explorers and innovators. We look forward to enjoying this experience together.

Curt Brown
ASF Chairman &
Space Shuttle Astronaut

FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO MESSAGE

The *Astronaut Scholarship Foundation* is one of the most gratifying organizations to be a part of and to lead. The passion and dedication that you have for the organization and its mission makes it even more unique. My greatest thanks to you for this past year and for continuing to inspire the next generation of leaders and innovators in science and engineering.

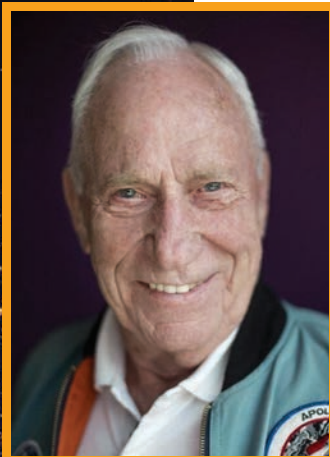
Over this next year, we will embark upon a great journey for ASF, and we hope you will join us. The upcoming *50th anniversaries of Apollo 7, 8 and 11* allow all of us the opportunity to honor the greatest achievements of mankind and the teamwork of more than 400,000 scientists, engineers, mathematicians and others. The excellent work of NASA and the individuals who worked tirelessly to make a dream become a reality had the right stuff. They paved the way for our scholars to build success by emulating their drive, ambition, and innovation that is leading to new technology and scientific advancements that will shape humankind for generations. Astronaut Scholars stand *On the Shoulders of Giants* every day, hence why our new fundraising campaign has adopted that name. Our campaign goal is to raise \$3.2 million dollars to ensure that future scholars will have similar opportunities in the future.

Astronaut Scholar Alumni are part of advancing healthcare research, protecting our interests in cybersecurity, utilizing analytics to enhance our quality of life, building the future of our space program, and making a difference in a multitude of other industries. This year, we will recognize 50 Astronaut Scholars with scholarships of up to \$10,000. These scholars will become part of a unique community that enhances the footprint in STEM-focused industries, building upon the legacy that we inherited from the Mercury 7 astronauts. This legacy challenges us to ensure that the United States continues to lead in innovation, research and discovery, engineering, technological advancement, entrepreneurship, and security.

Today, we stand *On the Shoulder of Giants*, and with your help *We Will Shape the Future!*

Tammy Sudler
ASF President &
Chief Executive Officer





BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

AL WORDEN

Serving the country, volunteering to become an astronaut, and being a part of a team is what Al Worden, Apollo 15, just did as part of his nature. It came as no surprise that he would embrace the role to serve his country again by rejoining the ASF Board of Directors in 2016. Al led ASF as Chairman from 2006-2012 and is back as we embark on our greatest journey yet. ASF is fortunate to have Worden participating at the leadership level as ASF begins Celebrating Apollo over the next year. He has been active in several ASF public and private functions sharing his passion and reasons for the long-time commitment he has had for the scholars.



SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

JOSEPH HAN

Joseph Han was awarded the Astronaut Scholarship in 1999 while attending Texas A&M. He served on the ASF Scholarship Selection Committee in 2011, 2012, and 2017 and was elected to the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors in 2013. Over the years, Joseph has volunteered and donated to the Scholars Give Back Campaign for ASF. He has been instrumental in organizing the Scholar Technical Conference, which highlights the work and research that our scholars are performing. He continues to stay committed to recognizing the significant impact each and every scholar has whether it is in industry, research, academia or as an entrepreneur.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

STEVE & JILL WIRTH

Almost a decade ago, Steve and Jill Wirth attended their first event with the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation and have regularly attended virtually every major ASF fundraising event since. "We are just thrilled that we can support such a worthy cause and help our young people become our future in space," Steve explained. Jill and Steve are members of the ASF Visionary Circle, and for several years have sponsored a scholarship at the University of Colorado Boulder in honor of Scott Carpenter. Steve's law firm, Page, Wolfberg & Wirth, LLC, is also a significant contributor to the cause. Jill and Steve are active ASF volunteers, and Jill was on the committee that helped organize the first Innovators Gala this past year. Jill and Steve Wirth truly enjoy sharingm their time and talents with ASF in hopes of having a lasting impact on the future.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

LAURA SHEPARD-CHURCHLEY

Astronaut has been part of Laura Shepard-Churchley's vocabulary since she was a little girl. She watched as her father, Alan Shepard, became the first man in space and many years later as he became Chairman of the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation. In honoring his memory, Laura has remained committed to ASF and supporting the scholars. Laura has served as Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees, hosted Meet & Greets in her home, and helped to connect ASF with other supporters. Her enthusiasm for the mission shows in her actions and willingness to always be the first to help kick things off... including the fundraising efforts for *On the Shoulders of Giants* campaign. Through her support, she has left her own mark on ASF.



CORPORATE PARTNER SPOTLIGHT ENGILITY



Engility delivers innovative solutions to critical challenges facing the nation and the world. As a premier provider of integrated services for the U.S. government, they support the Department of Defense, intelligence community, space communities, federal civilian agencies and international customers. Engility is dedicated to making lives better, safer and more secure.

The company began a strong and engaging partnership with ASF in 2017. The team's involvement over the past year has spanned across ASF's various programs including to support our Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Gala, the inaugural Innovators Gala, our Mentor Program, and our Professional Development Program. Engility also provided internships for the Workforce Program and hosted a Washington, DC tour and reception for 2017 Astronaut Scholars. Their dedication to developing the next generation of STEM talent dovetails with our mission.

We are appreciative of Engility's support and that of all of our partners that support our Professional Development Program, Mentor Program, Scholarship Program and Workforce Program.



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ASTRONAUT SCHOLARS THE RIGHT STUFF

The *Mercury 7 Astronauts* had and *Astronaut Scholars* have *The Right Stuff!*



DOUGLAS (DOUG) SHERIDAN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CLINICAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM AT ALEXION PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

Doug Sheridan, was a 1999 Astronaut Scholar from Pennsylvania State University, having graduated after studying biochemistry and molecular biology. He later went on to Yale to earn a Ph.D. in Philosophy, Neuroscience. In 2017, he was nominated for the inaugural Neil Armstrong Award of Excellence for his lasting and impactful works in research, seeking to develop therapies and treatments for people with ultra-rare diseases. Doug's leadership and technical expertise enabled the discovery of a new drug and he was recognized for his pioneering works focused on antibody and large protein engineering. Doug is not only an accomplished Astronaut Scholar but he also volunteers as a mentor and financially supports ASF by giving to the Scholars Give Back Campaign and has engaged his company through their Matching Gift Program.



ADAM WEBER

STAFF SCIENTIST AT LAWRENCE BERKELEY NATIONAL LABORATORY

Adam Weber, a 1998 Astronaut Scholar from Tufts University, is currently a Staff Scientist at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) leading the Energy Conversion Group focused on electrochemical energy-conversion technologies including solar fuels, fuel cells, electrolyzers, and redox flow batteries. Also, he is the LBNL Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Program Manager for DOE, Deputy Director of Fuel Cell - Performance and Durability Consortium (FC-PAD), Co-Deputy Director of HydroGEN - Advanced Water Splitting Materials (AWSM) Consortium and Thrust Coordinator in Joint Center for Artificial Photosynthesis (JCAP). He has over 115 peer-reviewed journal articles, 3 patents (including pending), 10 book chapters, 1 co-edited book, received the IAHE Sir William Grove Award, International Association for Hydrogen Energy, in 2016, the Charles W. Tobias Young Investigator Award of the Electrochemical Society in 2014, and the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) in 2012. Being a scholar and part of the Astronaut Scholar Foundation family was critical in his career development. It not only opened his eyes to research possibilities, but also exposed him to energy technologies and wonderful other researchers that have inspired him over the years.

JENI SORLI

GRADUATE STUDENT, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Jeni Sorli, a 2014 Astronaut Scholar from University of Colorado, is currently a third-year chemical engineering graduate student at Princeton University. The goal of her work is to develop a robust understanding for how small changes to a molecular compound can have big impacts on its solid structure, and how those structural changes can impact its optical and electronic properties, which may allow for the reliable control of materials. Jeni shares, "Receiving the Astronaut Scholarship fueled my decision to pursue graduate school and being a part of and participating in the scholar community continues to provide inspiration for my education and future career goals."



MICHAEL MARKESBERY

ENTREPRENEUR, CEO, OROS

Michael Markesbery, a 2014 Astronaut Scholar from Miami University (Ohio), is the CEO and co-founder of OROS, an outerwear apparel company that uses NASA space shuttle insulation, aerogel, to keep wearers warm without the typical bulk or layering in other clothing systems. OROS raised a \$2 million seed round with NCT Ventures and Fengshion Capital in 2016. In 2017, OROS partnered with Silicon Valley Bank to meet growing global demand for the company's expanding line of outerwear. OROS has grown a minimum of 300% every year since inception, with its cold weather gear being sold in more than 45 countries worldwide. And today, OROS's proprietary insulation technology, SOLARCORE, is featured in many other reliable and high-end performance brand products, such as Cabela's boots and John Deere gloves, just to name a few. Michael is a self-proclaimed science geek and avid adventurer; and he was recently named to Forbes 30 under 30 for Retail & E-commerce.



MATT MCKEOWN

ENGINEERING MANAGER AT SPACEX

Matt McKeown, a 2007 Astronaut Scholar from the University of Michigan, is currently an Engineering Manager at SpaceX working on propulsion systems for SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft. He has worked at SpaceX since graduating with a MSE in Aerospace Engineering in 2008. While at Michigan, Matt co-founded the Michigan Aeronautical Science Association (MASA) to gain hands-on experience with aerospace design challenges and developed a novel restartable hybrid rocket engine. The support from the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation allowed him to put more time towards performing hands-on research at MASA. Additionally, the fact that this scholarship was created by some of his personal heroes helped to motivate him to pursue his goals related to spaceflight.



ASTRONAUT SCHOLARS

THE RIGHT STUFF

Astronaut Scholars are impactful. Astronaut Scholars change the landscape of their industry. Astronaut Scholars take organizations from ordinary to exceptional. *Astronaut Scholars* have *The Right Stuff!*



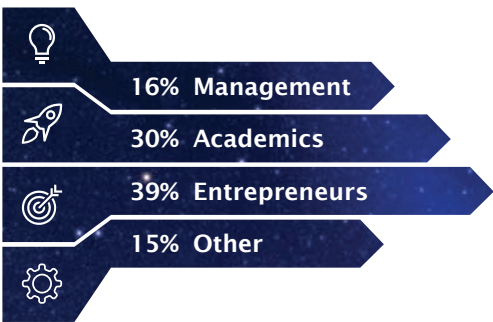
ALL ASTRONAUT SCHOLARS BY THE NUMBERS



2017 ASTRONAUT SCHOLARS BY GENDER



ALL ASTRONAUT SCHOLARS 368 TOTAL IN THE WORKFORCE



2017 ASTRONAUT SCHOLARS BY GENERAL DISCIPLINE



ASTRONAUT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

ASTRONAUT SCHOLARS

The Astronaut Scholarship is merit-based and awarded to college juniors/seniors majoring in a STEM field. The scholarship candidates are nominated by faculty in their department to a university-wide committee. The university committee selects their best two candidates and submits these nominees to the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation (ASF) Scholarship Committee. The ASF Scholarship Committee selects one (or two, if there is a matching scholarship) recipient(s) from each school and presents the candidates to the ASF Board of Directors for approval. This vigorous selection process ensures Astronaut Scholars are dedicated to the lifelong pursuit of discovery and innovation and are well-equipped to realize the founders' vision and fulfill their professional calling.

PARTNERING UNIVERSITIES

Auburn University
Brown University
Clemson University
Colorado School of Mines*
Colorado State University
Florida Institute of Technology*
Georgia Institute of Technology**
Harvey Mudd College
Johns Hopkins University
Louisiana State University*
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Miami University (Ohio)*
Mississippi State University
North Carolina State University
North Dakota State University
Ohio State University
Pennsylvania State University
Purdue University
Syracuse University
Texas A&M University*
Tufts University

University of Arizona
University of California at Berkeley
University of Central Florida*
University of Chicago*
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Kansas*
University of Kentucky
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota*
University of Oklahoma
University of Rochester
University of Southern California
University of Texas at Austin
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin
Virginia Polytechnic Institute
Washington University (St. Louis)

*University provides a matching scholarship.
**Additional scholarship provided by GT Alumni.



MENTOR PROGRAM ASTRONAUT SCHOLARS

This year ASF expanded upon the Mentor Program and effectively paired-up 95% of the 2017-18 scholar class and a few older alum with the highest caliber mentors that can be amassed from around the nation. Many thanks to our astronauts, Astronaut Scholars and our corporate partners for joining in on the effort to provide wise guidance to these amazing individuals.

"...In short, and with no exaggeration, my ASF mentorship program experience this year has been life changing in the best way possible. My mentor is one of the most remarkable people that I have ever known and he has helped me tremendously over the last 6 months. That he would be so giving of his time to a complete stranger like me, and always convey that he actually cares about helping me, is as rare as it gets [especially given his high level of responsibility in his senior leadership role in public service]... I've told [him] directly how thankful I am to him, but I've not lost sight of how thankful I am to ASF. That \$10k from 10+ years ago is nothing compared to the networking lottery that it comes with. I am living proof. I appreciate the team at ASF very much and hope to continue to give back in whatever small part that I can now and in the years that come..." - Daniel Araya, 2007 Astronaut Scholar (not pictured)

Mentor and Scholar pictured: Nelva Cary, Engility Corp and Damian Smith, FIT, 2017 Astronaut Scholar



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ASTRONAUT SCHOLARS

In its inaugural year, ASF's Professional Development Program received a jump start with a generous grant provided by RBC Capital Markets. This first year exceeded its delivery goals by 150%. ASF delivered professional development training to Astronaut Scholars at the Astronaut Hall of Fame Induction weekend in Cocoa Beach, Florida and at the Innovators Gala in Washington, D.C.



RBC Capital Markets

Pictured speaker: Barbara Barrett, Chairman of Aerospace Corporation

WORKFORCE PROGRAM ASTRONAUT SCHOLARS

In 2017, ASF had more companies join and support the Workforce Program. With the baby-boomers retiring, recruiting the best talent is even more of a priority. Thousands of corporate dollars are spent trying to find the best and the brightest talent around the nation. This program provides a win-win situation for our scholars and our Workforce Partners by connecting them together for open internships and employment opportunities.

Pictured from left to right: Patrick Biltgen, 2001 & 2002 Astronaut Scholar and Joey Wilson, 2016 Astronaut Scholar



NEIL ARMSTRONG™ AWARD OF EXCELLENCE INAUGURAL AWARD

The inaugural Neil Armstrong™ Award of Excellence was given to Patrick Biltgen. He was selected for his work in activity-based intelligence and geospatial analysis in support of overseas contingency operations critical to national security. The Neil Armstrong™ Award of Excellence recognizes an Astronaut Scholar alum who best exemplifies the character and integrity of the award's namesake. This award, and its evolving legacy, is only possible because of the support and leadership provided by Jim Hays and the Armstrong family.

Pictured from left to right: Mark Armstrong, Patrick Biltgen and Rick Armstrong



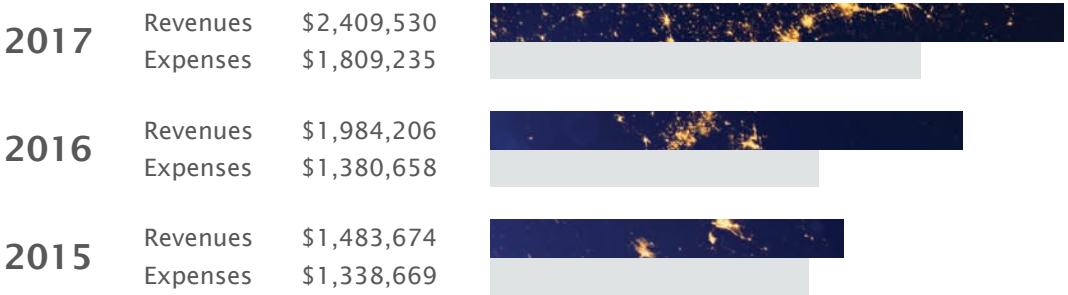
YEAR BY YEAR COMPARISON

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

SUPPORT & REVENUES	2017	2016
Contributions	\$295,831	\$246,213
Grants	\$25,140	\$82,929
Corporate Support	\$105,381	\$122,645
Special Events	\$588,989	\$539,818
Auction & Store	\$94,453	\$103,920
Support Services	\$313,755	\$310,198
Interest/Dividend Income	\$191,955	\$209,409
Net Investment Gains	\$794,025	\$369,074
Total Revenue	\$2,409,530	\$1,984,206
EXPENSES	2017	2016
Program Expenses	\$1,366,196	\$1,077,912
Operations Expenses	\$237,592	\$156,110
Fundraising Expenses	\$205,447	\$146,636
Total Expenses	\$1,809,235	\$1,380,658
NET REVENUE	\$600,295	\$603,548
NET ASSETS	\$10,323,614	\$9,723,319

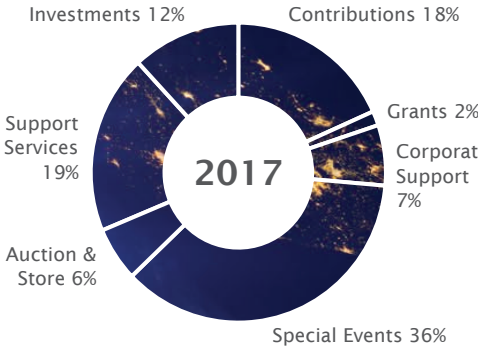
REVENUES AND EXPENSES COMPARISON

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT



SOURCES OF REVENUES

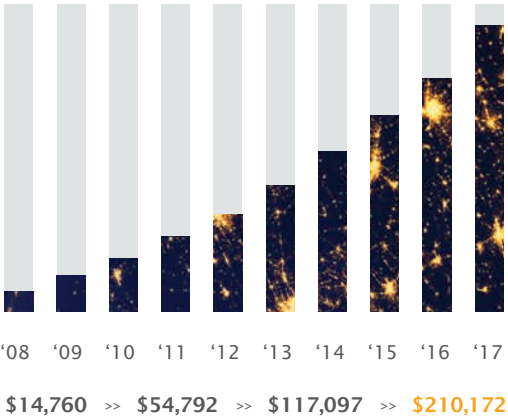
FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT



*Does not include Net Investment Gains.

SCHOLARS GIVE BACK

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT



2017 ASF EVENTS



U.S. ASTRONAUT HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY & GALA

The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation celebrated the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame inductees at our annual gala. The guests dined under the largest rocket ever made...the mighty Saturn V suspended above. This monumental 363-foot rocket was America's lunar transportation for 24 brave astronauts who traveled to the moon and back. This year proved to add two noted and well-deserved astronauts into the Hall of Fame, Michael Foale and Ellen Ochoa. We were thrilled to celebrate them at our gala this year along with 450 astronauts and friends.



This inaugural scholar-focused Washington, D.C. weekend was chocked-full of fun for our 2017 Astronaut Scholar Class. They enjoyed a private gathering at Lockheed Martin, a special tour at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency sponsored by Vencore and then onto Goddard Space Flight Center sponsored by Engility. The weekend also included professional development by some top-notch individuals and plenty of networking to garner internships. The weekend culminated with the Innovators Gala where astronauts, friends, and family gathered to celebrate and view the scholarship presentations and pinning of the new 2017 Astronaut Scholar Class (pictured below). This evening concluded with the presentation of the prestigious Neil Armstrong™ Award of Excellence to a previous Astronaut Scholar.



2017 SPACE RENDEZVOUS

Space Rendezvous was a glorious weekend full of events that showcased America In Space: The Past, Present and Future. During the weekend, we heard from America's pioneering astronauts and space industry leaders. This weekend wouldn't have been the same without the great Astronaut Autograph Show that ensued on Saturday where all could get an autograph or photo with their favorite astronaut. The weekend was topped off with the gala and all had the pleasure of listening to the Astronaut Panel and their thoughts on the past, present and future of space. This relaxed weekend gave guests the opportunity to mingle with their heroes and talk space with their friends.

DONORS ASF CONTRIBUTORS

Thanks to all our individuals, corporations, and foundations for supporting the mission that we proudly carry on. The generosity represented in the following pages are those who honored the Foundation with significant gifts in 2017. Their names inspire us each day as we assist 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.

\$0 - \$999

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Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
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Kathryn and Stephen Thornton
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Danny Tyler
Weingarten Schnitzer Foundation, Inc.
James and Robin Wetherbee

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Curtis and Mary Brown
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We have made a concerted effort to accurately list all donors of significant contributions in 2017. This list consists of gifts not related to events, auctions, raffles or merchandise. If your name is misspelled or missing from this report, please accept our apology and email the correct information to development@astronautscholarship.org.

ASTRONAUT SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

GET INVOLVED

PARTICIPATE AND SUPPORT THE “ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS” CAMPAIGN

Be a part of history and give to this fundraising campaign to match surcharges from the sale of the U.S. Mint’s Apollo 11 50th Anniversary commemorative coins that go on sale January 24, 2019.

ATTEND OR SPONSOR AN EVENT

ASF hosts events throughout the year and across the country to honor the Astronaut Scholars and Astronauts.

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Invite friends and colleagues to your house to introduce ASF and learn more about our mission from an Astronaut Scholar and an Astronaut.

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Give your time and insight as a mentor to assist and propel these scholars in the right direction to fully recognize and utilize their world-changing potential.

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Choose the level of your gift and the astronaut you want to honor.

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ASF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. To continue our mission, we rely on generous donations from our supporters. All contributions are 100% tax-deductible and support the next generation of American scientists, technicians, engineers and mathematicians.

VOLUNTEER

There are many opportunities to volunteer including events and administrative assistance.

ASTRONAUT SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION
GET IN TOUCH WITH US

www.astronautscholarship.org



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