



# NASA WV SPACE GRANT CONSORTIUM NEWSLETTER SPRING 2024 EDITION

[WWW.WVSPACEGRANT.ORG](http://WWW.WVSPACEGRANT.ORG)

## VEX U State Championship 2024

4 events. 6 days. 172 teams. One state championship. The NASA IV&V ERC team with help from amazing volunteers from our VEX U team, FSU Faculty, NASA engineers, and over a dozen other students, parents, teachers, and coaches supported our largest combined state championship EVER! We are SO proud of the teams, their amazing robots, teamwork, sportsmanship, and grit. We are amazed at how well all the matches flowed, how John Holbrook kept us ahead of schedule, how impressive the interviews with teams were, and how professional our world-class team ran the show. Huge Shout Out to all the volunteers, to our amazing sponsors (A3L Federal Works, NASA WV NASA West Virginia Space Grant Consortium, Aurora Flight Sciences, NASA's Robotics Alliance, and of course Fairmont State University.). - **Dr. Todd Ensign, Program Manager, NASA IV&V Education Resource Center**



# First Lego League

48 FIRST LEGO League teams from across West Virginia came to Fairmont State University to celebrate their masterpiece season on December 2nd & 3rd. This tournament is aimed to celebrate the learnings that each team had this season. The knowledge, skills, and tools that they gain while participating in FLL are preparing them for a bright future, and these teams are already making an impactful difference in their communities! - **Dr. Todd Ensign, Program Manager, NASA IV&V Education Resource Center**



# Partial Eclipse but Total Fun



WVU Tech in Beckley, WV hosted an eclipse viewing party on the Robert C. Byrd Learning Resource Center patio on April 8, 2024. It was a partial eclipse, but it was a total blast. Students, faculty, staff, administrators, and community members gathered to view the eclipse, eat eclipse-themed snacks and watch the NASA YouTube broadcast. Dr. Tae Jin Kim, WVU Tech physicist, projected the eclipse using a telescope for those who preferred the secondary view. The event was sponsored by the NASA WV Space Grant Consortium, WVU Tech College of Engineering and Sciences and WVU Tech Student Life



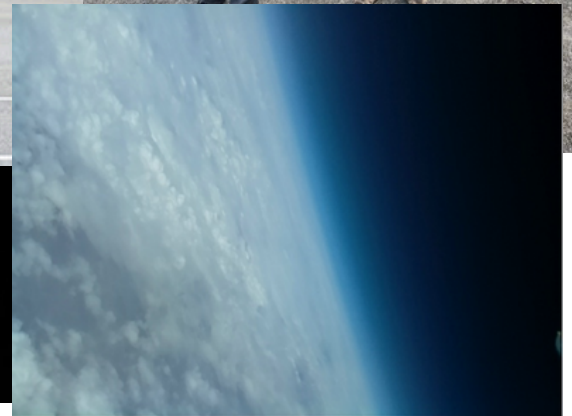
**-Dr. Tamara Floyd Smith, Dean, LCN College of Engineering and Sciences  
West Virginia University Institute of Technology**



# Eclipse Viewing Parties at Some Affiliate Campuses!



**CHECK OUT THE WV BEAR BALLOON TEAM IN WATERFORD PA!**



**03/09**

# WOMEN LINK CONFERENCE

“LEADING, INNOVATING, NETWORKING AND KNOWING”



The Women Leading, Innovating, Networking, Knowing (LINK) Conference was held in Morgantown WV on March 20, 2024 where we welcomed over 75 women from all over WV. The conference served as a pivotal platform for empowering women leaders across various sectors, including higher education and industry. It focused on strategies to address challenges such as imposter syndrome, gender gaps in male-dominated occupations, and fostering inclusive work cultures. Agenda included panel discussions, workshops, and personal narratives shared. The plan for the next conference is in the works for 2025!



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



I am grateful to NASA WVSGC for providing funding for my research on evaluating probable maximum precipitation (PMP) in West Virginia for the purpose of predicting both current and future PMP. I am thankful for the assistance and the fantastic chance to showcase my research at the WVAS.” Grace also received first place in the student poster competition at the 2024 International Soil Erosion Control Annual Conference and Expo.

**-Grace Kerr, Master’s Student in Civil and Environmental Engineering at West Virginia University**



04/09



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2024 SUMMER INTERNS!

**Adam Cummings:** West Virginia University- Glenn Research Center

**Grace Hansen:** West Virginia University - Glenn Research Center

**Izaak Whetsell:** West Virginia University- Jet Propulsion Laboratory

**Kaitlyn Nyce:** Fairmont State University- NASA IV&V

**Skyler Clagg:** Marshall University- NASA IV&V

**Natalie Fout:** Glenville State University- NASA IV&V

**Tiambra Collins:** West Virginia State University- Clay Center

**Abigail Ho:** West Virginia State University- Clay Center

**Elisabeth Witzke:** West Virginia University- Clay Center

**Greg Epps Jr.:** NASA WV Space Grant Intern

WV Space Grant team attended the National Council of NASA Space Grant Directors Meeting that was held in Washington D.C. from Feb. 28 through Mar. 2. The meeting was held to detail the accomplishments that the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program (NASA Space Grant) has accomplished. NASA Space Grant's goal is to provide opportunities in aerospace education and awareness. The sessions held during the three-day meeting covered the vast array of services that the National Space Grant provides to students and to faculty. The invited speakers at this conference included some of the most influential people in the field of aerospace research and technology. We had a great time networking with other Space Grants teams and learning more about opportunities and services.

## National Council of NASA Space Grant Directors Meeting



We met Jeffrey Hoffman an American former NASA astronaut who is now the Director, Massachusetts Space Grant!



We heard from Nicky Fox (AA), NASA Science Mission Directorate



# WVU Day At the Legislature

WV Space Grant Program Coordinator, Kristina Angeline attended the WVU day at the WV Capitol on January 30, 2024, to represent Space Grant and share our opportunities with the legislature and public!

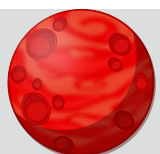


## WV Science & Public Outreach Summit



The WV Science Public Outreach Team (SPOT) hosted its annual Spring Summit at Glenville State University in conjunction with the WV Academy of Sciences Conference (WVAS). This was the first year SPOT Summit coincided with WVAS and by all accounts, it was a successful event! Five undergraduate students and five faculty advisors attended the summit and learned about upcoming SPOT presentations and activities. The team attended WVAS lectures and poster sessions, networking with other student researchers and professors from a variety of WV institutions. Highlights from the weekend included learning about space weather, fluorescent imaging, drug delivery, and environmental impacts of dams on WV waterways. Ambassadors reported successes and challenges during our annual programmatic review before being recognized for their achievements of learning new presentations and visiting over 2,000 K12 students in the 2023-2024 school year. -

**Sophie de Saint Georges, Education Specialist, Green Bank Observatory**



# Region 1 & Region 4 Math Field Day

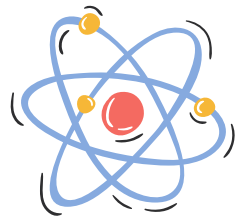
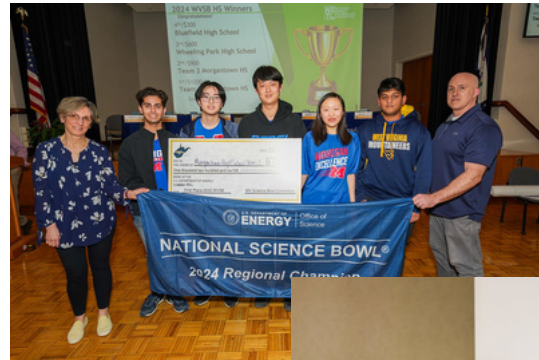


WVU Tech, under the direction of Dr. Tamara Smith, hosted a regional math contest for grades 4-12 from southern WV (Mercer, McDowell, Monroe, Raleigh, Summers, and Wyoming counties). The event was held on March 2, 2024, and the top students are eligible to continue to a statewide competition.



The WV Science Bowl was held on WVU's campus on February 2 & 3, 2024. Imagine combining the concept of Jeopardy with STEM and a roomful of over 100 middle/high school students. What do you get? The Regional Science Bowl! Often known as the Super Bowl of science, Regional Science Bowls provide the perfect opportunity for middle and high school students interested in STEM to compete for the chance to represent their school at the National Science Bowl in Washington, D.C. Space Grant was happy to support this event!

## WV Science Bowl



07/09



Award to Organizing Committee

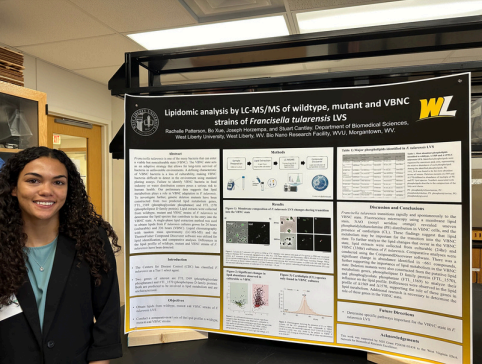


# West Virginia Academy of Sciences Conference

On April 6, 2024, there were 39 Faculty and 71 Students that attended the 98th Annual West Virginia Academy of Sciences Meeting at Glenville State University, Glenville, WV. Fifteen students gave oral presentations, and another 42 students gave poster presentations. All submitted abstracts were published in Vol. 96 No.1 of the Proceedings of the West Virginia Academy of Sciences. NASA WVSGC funding supported morning coffee and pastries prior to the start of the meeting, registration fees for two student volunteers from Glenville State University, and student presentation awards. Students received \$200 for first place, \$100 for second place, and \$50 for third and fourth place. - **Deanna Schmitt, Ph.D, West Liberty University**



WV Tech Students Presenting

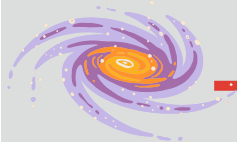
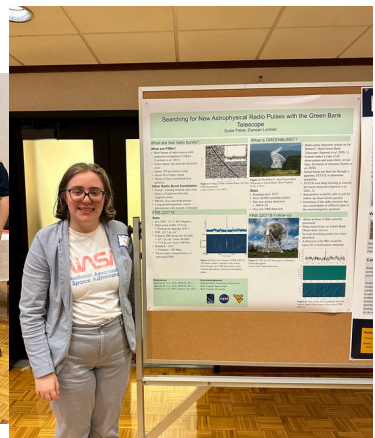


2nd Place Poster Winner - Rachelle Patterson



## Spring Board Reception

The WVSGC hosted a Spring Reception on April 18th at the WVU Mountainlair, preceding the Board Meeting. Attendees included Board members, VIPs, mentors, students, and various clubs and organizations, totaling 75 individuals. The event provided an opportunity for everyone to come together, reflect on the achievements of the past year, and enjoy a memorable evening of celebration.







# Community Health Expo

A Community Health Expo was held on Sunday, April 16, 2024 outside the WVU Student Recreation Center. The Expo will have complementary health services and an abundance of health and wellness-related information available to attendees. This event also included a 2-mile community health walk and a kids' fun run. WV Space Grant was proud to sponsor this inclusive event.



## Upcoming Events

- » COVERAGE Expo, May 22, 2024, at the Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences in Charleston, will bring together participating teams, other all-girls robotics teams, and individual girls who are interested in STEM or robotics. [Register Here!](#)
- » Next Gen STEM (NGS) 101 Educator Workshop: July 18, 2024, for Elementary Educators and July 19, 2024, for Middle & High School Educators. Held at WVSU with optional activities at the Clay Center on the evening of the 18th. [Application!](#)
- » WV Robotics Extreme 26-hour, 14-minute FIRST Robotics Invitational Tournament at Fairmont State University: WVRoX August 2-3, 2024

## Additional Resources

- » [STEMM Opportunity Alliance Releases National Strategy at White House Summit](#)
- » [STEMM Equity & Excellence 2050](#)

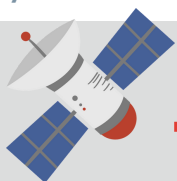
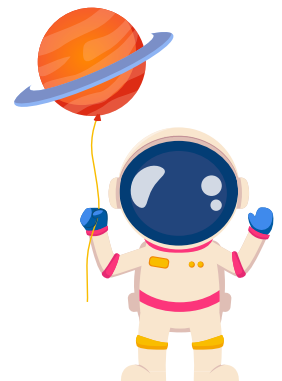
# THANK YOU!

## NASA WV Space Grant Team

Melanie C. Page, PhD Director  
 Candy Cordwell, Assistant Director  
 Kristina Angeline, Program Coordinator  
 Alyssa George, Administrative Assistant



[www.wvspacegrant.org](http://www.wvspacegrant.org)



09/09