



NASA WV SPACE GRANT CONSORTIUM NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2024 EDITION

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Congratulations to our 2024–2025 Student Research Award Fellows!

Undergraduate Awardees:



Marshall University

- Abigail Browning
- Ben Taylor
- Brooklyn Johnson
- Ethan Bowens
- Hunter Mitchell
- Jacob Lee
- Jaxon Smith
- Matthew Allen
- Preston Sellards
- Rianna Smith
- Robbie Jividen
- Tristan Burgess
- Ubay Keblawi
- Zachary Sparks

WL West Liberty University

- Emma Cooper
- Ian Drerup
- Reagan Gray
- Tyler Schwisow

WV West Virginia University

- Andrew Jackson
- Anna Passey
- Brayden Smith
- Ian Long
- Marcel Rodriguez
- Noah Parsons

Graduate Awardees:



Marshall University

- Christopher Bender
- Maafi Islam



West Liberty University

- Katherine Torrance
- Tyler Hill



West Virginia State University

- Claire Wallace



West Virginia University

- Anuj Kankani
- Bryan Rodriguez
- Lindsey Morais
- Matthew Fox
- Maya Bradford
- Nathaniel Pearson
- Timothy Olszanski



LET'S HEAR FROM
SOME OF OUR
WVSGC INTERNS!

Natalie Fout

Internship Location: NASA IV & V

Education Outreach Center

Institution: **Glenville State University**



"One of the most rewarding aspects of my internship was leading classes and creating lessons that required students to think critically about how robots can be used to solve real-world problems. I designed projects where students had to identify a real-world challenge, such as disaster response, environmental monitoring, or healthcare, and then brainstorm how robotic solutions could be applied. Through these activities, students not only learned the technical skills necessary to build and program robots, but also developed problem-solving, critical thinking, and creativity. Watching students take ownership of their projects and come up with innovative solutions was incredibly fulfilling, and their interest showed me the importance of integrating real-world applications into STEM education. This approach not only makes learning more engaging but also helps students understand the broader impact of technology on society and inspires them to pursue careers in STEM fields."

Tiambra Collins

Internship Location: Clay Center

for the Arts & Sciences

Institution: **WV State University**



"My experience as a camp counselor at the Clay Center was incredibly rewarding. It provided me with invaluable skills and experiences that I will carry forward into my future endeavors. I developed strong leadership and communication skills, as I was responsible for guiding and mentoring a diverse group of children. The opportunity to inspire and engage young minds through creative activities and educational programs was immensely fulfilling. Additionally, I learned the importance of teamwork and adaptability, as I collaborated with fellow counselors to ensure a safe and enjoyable environment for all campers. I am very grateful that I was awarded this opportunity. This experience not only allowed me to grow personally and professionally but also left me with cherished memories and a sense of accomplishment that made this summer truly unforgettable."

Nick Defelice

Internship Location: West Virginia

University Innovation Corporation

Institution: **West Virginia University**



"To summarize my experience thus far, the unique dynamic of the West Virginia University Innovation Corporation has been an enjoyable learning experience. I can confidently say that I will unlikely not find myself working in such a rare setting ever again. Even though it does not elicit the technical aspects of a major aeronautics company like NASA, for example, the combination of various scientific companies as tenants allows for the ability to be exposed to a wide range of areas all of which carry their own unique technical aspects. Regardless of the situation, it undoubtedly tests the two desired aspects of scientific communication and written skills and they continue to improve by the day."



Summer Outreach Events



COVERAGE: Clay Center, May 22



2024 Norman Jordan African American Arts Camp: WVSU, July 12



WVRoX: Fairmont State University, August 2-3



NEW OPPORTUNITIES!

NASA WVSGC Ambassador Program

The NASA WV Space Grant Consortium is pleased to announce one-year scholarships for students to promote awareness and inspire, engage, and encourage interest and careers in STEM. Student ambassadors will serve as a vital link between the West Virginia Space Grant Consortium (WVSGC) and the community. This position will increase awareness of the WVSGC and students' opportunities. Students of U.S. citizenship from any WV Space Grant Consortium affiliate campus may apply. **For more information and to apply click [HERE!](#)**

NASA Day RFP

The NASA West Virginia Space Grant Consortium is offering a \$3000 grant to support Affiliates in hosting their own NASA Day event. This event is designed to inspire students and promote STEM. This event is a fantastic opportunity to engage students and the community with activities such as guest speakers, interactive science experiments, and educational workshops. We are looking for detailed proposals that outline your event's plan, budget, and timeline. The proposed NASA Day event is expected to take place in Spring 2025, following our own NASA Day 2024 at the Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences on November 7th. Share your vision for celebrating STEM and submit your proposal with details to receive funding support.

To view the RFP, click [HERE!](#)



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NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Distinguished West Virginian Awards



Gov. Jim Justice visited the Morgantown Campus Monday (June 24) to present Duncan Lorimer, a 2024 Fellow of the Royal Society, and Maura McLaughlin, a new member of the National Academy of Sciences, with Distinguished West Virginian awards. Lorimer and McLaughlin, internally renowned astrophysicists and professors in physics and astronomy in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, are also recipients of the Shaw Prize, the 'Nobel of the East.'

Plant the Moon Challenge



The Westwood Middle School "Moon Monkeys" team received a state-level innovation award. As the image shows, the Westwood team toured the WV Botanical Garden, and talked with the WVBG about the irrigation system they created for their PTMC project and learned about their irrigation systems used by the botanical garden staff.



The Wheeling Country Day "Mold of the Moon" team led by teacher/coach Brittney Farris, won the Spring 2024 state-level middle school award for Evaluation of Results. The Country Day tour of the West Fork Watershed on May 15, 2024 was a perfect enhancement to the PTMC project and related middle school science "deep dive" into water research.

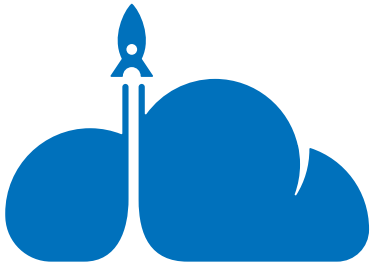
Congratulations Callie Daugherty and the Wirt County High School Team for winning the International Best of Show Evaluation of Results, High School Division!



Congratulations to the Space Flight Design Challenge Team!

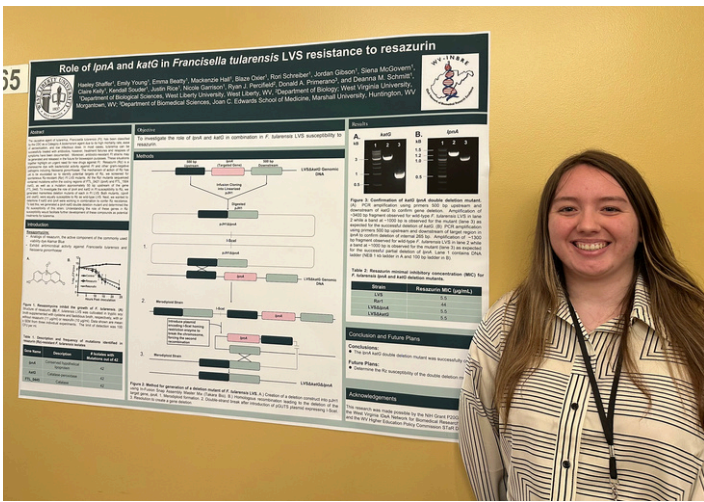


The team traveled to Wallops Flight Facility on August 13, and had a successful launch! This initiative serves to advance IV&V approaches and provide practical test beds for IV&V engineers and WV researchers to maintain their domain expertise and rapidly mature innovative solutions for the application of IV&V on NASA's missions. The SFDC leverages RockSat, overseen by the Colorado Space Grant Consortium, which is an annual program culminating in a sounding rocket launch from Wallops Flight Facility.



SURE Program Support

The funding provided by NASA WVSGC supported student Haeley Shaffer this summer. Haeley is a pre-veterinary major at West Liberty University who was interested in gaining some biomedical research experience. Her project focused on trying to understand the mechanism of action of a novel family of antibiotics our laboratory studies known as rezazomycins. At the conclusion of our summer program, Haeley presented her research findings at the West Virginia INBRE Summer Symposium.



Upcoming Events & Opportunities!

- ★ **3rd Annual Girls In Aviation Day:** Join us for a day of hands-on aviation fun! This event is FREE. Saturday, September 28th. Learn more & Register [HERE!](#)
- ★ **Mentor Workshops:** NSF-funded LSAMP MarSci-LACE has created the Mentor Development Workshop (MDW) a six-hour workshop that interactively engages potential undergraduate research mentors through the following five training modules! Friday, October 18th at West Virginia University, OR Thursday, October 17th, at WV State University. Learn more & Register [HERE!](#)
➡ Interested in becoming a trainer so you can offer the workshop on your own campus? There are two more workshops in the fall! Learn more [HERE!](#)
- ★ **NASA Day 2024:** Visit the Clay Center where students can participate in hands-on STEM workshops, visit the Caperton Planetarium and Theater and learn about the Artemis Missions in a live presentation, and hear from the keynote speaker, Emily Certain! Thursday, November 7th!
- ★ **Fall WVSGC & EPSCoR Board of Directors Meeting:** Friday, November 15th, 9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m., the meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. Additional details will be forthcoming.
- ★ **LINK:** The Women Leading, Innovating, Networking, Knowing (LINK) Conference is not just another event. It's a transformative experience that empowers women leaders across multiple sectors, including higher education, our community, and industry. Thursday, March 13th, Erickson Alumni Center, WVU. Learn more [HERE!](#)

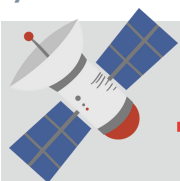
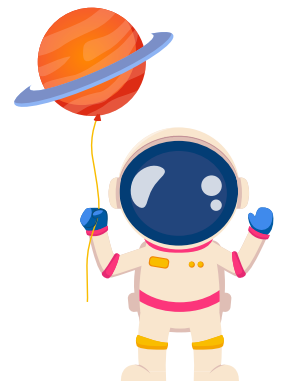
THANK YOU!

NASA WV Space Grant Team

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