



# NASA WV SPACE GRANT CONSORTIUM NEWSLETTER FALL & WINTER 2024 EDITION

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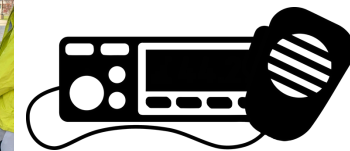
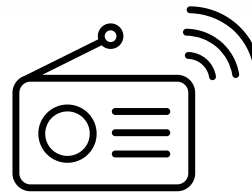
## CLUB HIGHLIGHT



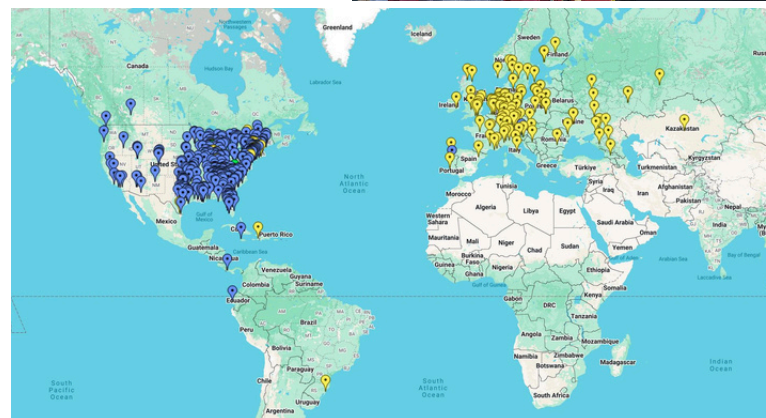
### Amateur Radio Club School Club Roundup

The West Virginia University Amateur Radio Club (ARC), callsign W8CUL, participated in the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) School Club Roundup contest, joining other schools nationwide to make as many contacts as possible with fellow radio operators. WVU ARC made 554 successful radio contacts throughout the week, spanning 42 states and even reaching as far as Kazakhstan.

Radio operations occurred from the WVU ARC "Radio Shack" and an outdoor setup featuring an antenna strung between trees. This contest provided many students their first opportunity to make radio contacts and learn about long-distance radio communications. To learn more about the WVU Amateur Radio Club, visit their website at <https://wvuarc.org.wvu.edu/>



*The picture below shows a map of all 554 successful radio contacts that the club made during the competition*





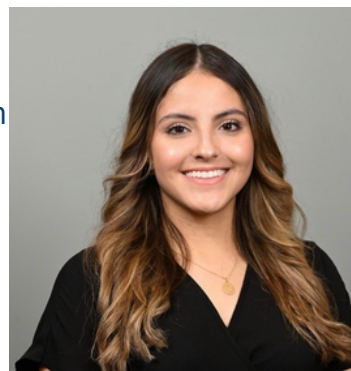
# NASA WVSGC Student Ambassadors:

The NASA WV Space Grant Consortium is pleased to announce the students selected for our 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. Students were selected in pairs this year to focus on their institution while working with surrounding institutions close to their campuses. This position will increase awareness of the WVSGC and students' opportunities.



**Matthew Fox:**

Matthew Fox is a first-year Direct-Track Ph.D. student in Aerospace Engineering at West Virginia University (WVU) focusing on dynamics and controls. He is from Parkersburg, WV.



**Ximena Cabrera Vega:**

Ximena Cabrera Vega is a senior from Louisville, KY, studying Aerospace Engineering at West Virginia University (WVU).



**Sonya Carper:**

Sonya is pursuing a degree in Physics/Engineering at West Virginia Wesleyan College, intending to finish at West Virginia University, majoring in Mining Engineering, from Buckhannon, WV.



**Dakota Carpenter:**

Dakota is attending West Virginia Wesleyan College, where he is pursuing a triple major in Mathematics, Physics, and Engineering. He is from Webster County, WV.



# Undergraduate Affiliate Awardees 2024-2025:



## Bethany College

- Karleigh Clegg
- Nataley Kemmer
- Annabella Kovach
- Alex Neu-Houdieshe
- Maria Recabeitia
- Alexis Reid
- Sydney Sands



## West Liberty University

- Saraswati Braun
- Reagan Bally
- Brooke Shaffer
- Sofia Poludniak



## West Virginia State University

- Alexander Bailey
- Reneta Castellanos
- Moxie Imber
- Terence Shleton



## WVU Institute of Technology

- Griffin Holbert
- Kyle Holiday
- Logan Marks



## West Virginia University

- Natasha Dickerman
- Jonah Forinash
- Logan Gold
- Jordyn Herter
- Jonah Jaeger
- Theodore Malencia
- Rex McAllister
- Robert Nunley
- Connor Sauers
- Zara Zervos



## West Virginia Wesleyan College

- Gavin Albritton
- Cullen Cairns
- Dakota Carpenter
- Sonya Carper
- Jackson Crouso
- Lethaniel Foster
- Ethan Fraley
- Jake Hotka
- Carlie Ice
- Sante Klosterman
- Lis Shala



## Bluefield State College

- Gregory Dennard
- Damiesha Greene
- Ernest Johnson
- Albert Johnson Jr..
- Michael Smith
- Kellie Williams
- Ahmad Wilson



## Fairmont State University

- Kendra Beachy
- Zachary Bulatko
- Joshua George
- Javier Khaaliq
- Donaven Kinzer
- McKenzie Lamm
- Jessica Lilly
- Katie Long
- Jayleigh Payne
- Bailey Yoho



## Marshall University

- Grace Shiz
- Brody Pinson
- Braden Ross
- Soren Tyree
- Richard Williams



## Shepherd University

- Mary Buktaw
- Cara Burgan
- Z Coffman
- Sydney Martin-Gonciarz
- Michal Murphy
- Josiah Pryor
- Erika Voges
- Holly White



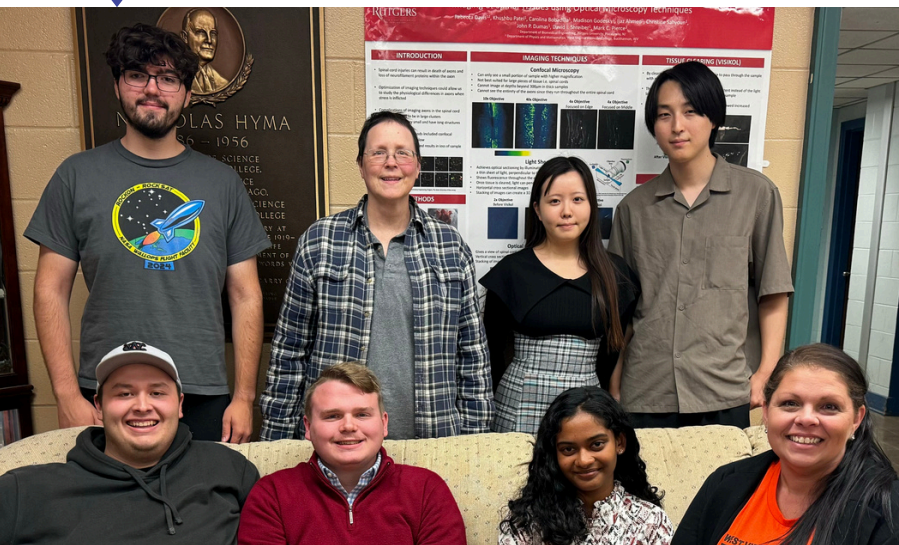
# Exciting Experiences

WVWC SFDC/  
GHOST Team led  
by Dr. Tracey  
DeLaney. Front: D.  
Carpenter, J.  
Dawson, S.  
Sundaraneedi, S.  
Carper  
Back: E. Hall, Dr  
DeLaney,  
Y. Takahashi,  
M. Nishi



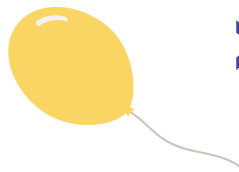
All Voices as One-  
Statler College  
Poster  
Presentation- Greg  
Epps, and Mason  
Ritinger Student  
Ambassadors for  
WVSGC

Keystone  
Space  
Collaborative  
annual  
conference-  
Dr. Melanie  
Page & Kristina  
Angeline



Rocket  
Launch  
station at  
Maker's Fest  
at Marshall  
University-  
Todd Ensign  
& Josh Revels  
NASA IV&V  
ERC

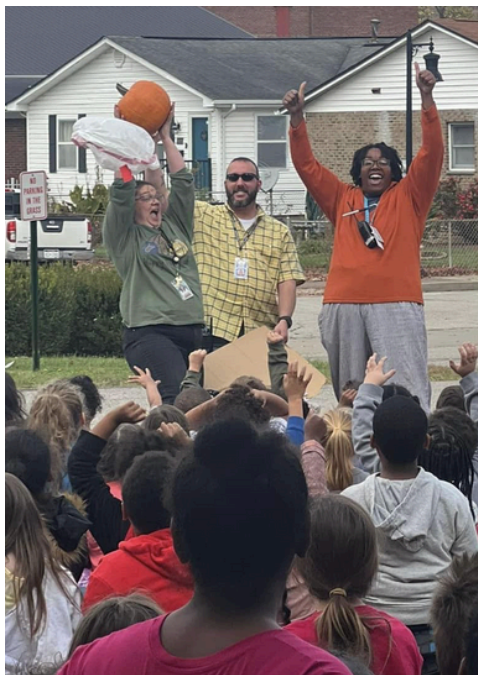
NASA WVSGC  
students working  
on the balloon  
arch for NASA  
Day! Pictured  
are: Kourtney  
Kotvas, Mason  
Ritinger, and  
Matthew Fox



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# Exciting Experiences Continued

NASA WVSGC Ambassador Sonya Carper running an activity at a field trip at WVWC.



▲ Pumpkin Drop at Mary C Snow WestSide Elementary in Charleton, WV led by the NASA WVSGC Informal Educator, Ms. Janet Cuningham



WVU student Mallory Anderson with NASA Astronaut Rob Behnken at the Keystone Space Collaborative Conference .



▲ SPOT Summit at Green Bank Observatory- Kristina Angeline WWSGC, Josh Revels NASA IV&V ERC, Amanda Smith Fairmont State Professor



Members of the Putnam Area Robotics, FLL Team "The Pansies." WWSGC helped with ordering materials to get started!



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



## Baylee Senator

She began her academic journey at **West Virginia Wesleyan College (WVWC)** in 2018 as an applied physics major, quickly becoming involved in campus life through the Physics and Engineering Club. Throughout her first three years, she received a NASA fellowship and was honored with the Outstanding Award in Applied Physics each year.

Her research journey started with a summer REU at the University of South Florida, where she co-authored a paper on GMI biosensors. Although she couldn't present at the APS convention due to the COVID-19 pandemic, she continued her research and worked as a lab assistant and tutor. In her junior year, she added a computer science major and took on teaching assistant roles, including for the "Journey to the Moon and Mars" seminar. Outside academics, she held leadership positions in the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority, developing key skills.

She spent a summer at Columbia University researching dark matter, and in her senior year, she designed an autonomous vehicle for her senior project. She graduated summa cum laude with a 3.9 GPA and continued her studies with a full scholarship to Vanderbilt University's electrical engineering graduate program. Now, she is pursuing a master's in computer science at **Marshall University** while working as a Graduate Assistant. Her time at WVWC was a remarkable journey of growth and interdisciplinary learning.



## Girls In Aviation Day

The 3rd annual Girls In Aviation Day was held on September 28, 2024, at the Robert C. Byrd National Aerospace Education Center. Hundreds of girls from across the state attended for a day of hands-on aviation fun! WVSG student ambassadors attended and held a Rocket Launching session. Please contact us if you are interested in hosting a station or attending this event in 2025.



# OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS

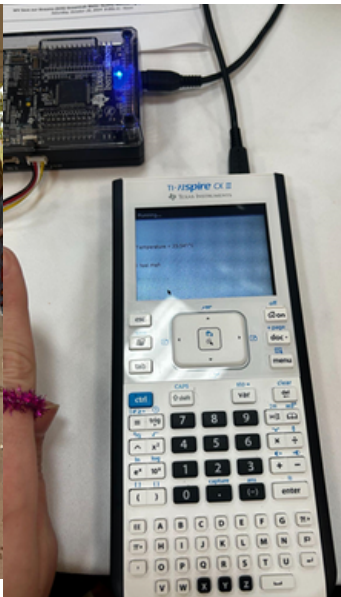
## First Lego League

Friendly competition is at the heart of the FIRST LEGO League Challenge, as teams of students ages 9-14 engage in research, problem-solving, coding, and engineering—building and programming a LEGO robot that navigates the missions of a robot game. This year's FIRST LEGO League Challenge in West Virginia was held on Saturday, December 7. 51 Challenge teams from all over West Virginia competed for the FLL State Championship. Thank you to the WV Robotics Alliance for coordinating such an amazing event!



## Exploring Science 24/7 at the West Virginia Science Teachers Association Annual Conference

STEM teachers from across West Virginia gathered for the annual West Virginia Science Teachers Association (WVSTA) conference, a two-day event filled with immersive learning. The conference was held at Stonewall Jackson Resort in Roanoke, WV, October 25-26, 2024. WVSTA is a statewide organization that provides professional development opportunities for science teachers across West Virginia. Attendees expressed appreciation for the scholarships offered by the NASA West Virginia Space Grant Consortium.



# NASA Day

On November 7, we celebrated our 10-year anniversary of NASA Day, a milestone event held at and hosted by the Clay Center in Charleston, WV. We were delighted to welcome 480 students from many different schools across WV. The event was a platform for these students to actively participate in hands-on STEM workshops, visit the Caperton Planetarium & Theater, and learn about the Artemis Missions in a live presentation. Our Keynote speaker, Emily Certain, Test Engineer for NASA's Exercise Robotics Division at Johnson Space Center, shared her inspiring journey, leaving a lasting impact on the students and inspiring them to dream big. We also want to extend our heartfelt thanks to our vendors. Your support is crucial, and NASA Day would not be possible without you.



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# Upcoming Events & Opportunities!

## ★ Spring WVSGC BoD Meeting:

The Spring Board of Directors meeting will be held on April 3-4, 2025, at the Marriott in Charleston, WV. Stay tuned for more updates!

## ★ Women LINK Conference:

The 2nd Annual Women LINK Conference will be held on March 13, 2025, at the Erickson Alumni Center in Morgantown WV. To find more information about this event and sign up, click [HERE](#). *Agenda will be released soon!*

## ★ Release of RFP's:

The request for proposals (RFPs) for the NASA WV EPSCoR and NASA WV Space Grant Consortium for the FY 2025 are now available. The complete list of RFPs can be found on the WVSGC website, [HERE](#).

## ★ NASA Internships:

The NASA National and State wide scholarships are taking applications for summer internship opportunities. NASA Internships offer educational, hands-on experiences that provide unique research and operational opportunities related to NASA for undergraduate students. Students interested in applying can find more information [HERE](#)! **Final Application deadline: February 28, 2025**

**Sending you warm wishes during this Holiday Season!**



## NASA WV Space Grant Team

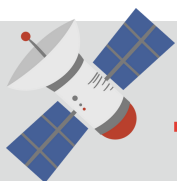
Melanie C. Page, PhD Director

Candy Cordwell, Assistant Director

Kristina Angeline, Program Coordinator



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



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