National Aeronautics and Space Administration



2025 AGENCY HONOR AWARDS REACHING FOR THE STARS

Program

Ceremony Opening

Leah Hollander

Acting Director, HQ Human Capital Office

Presentation of Colors/National Anthem

U.S. Space Force Honor Guard

Welcome and Introduction of Speaker

Leah Hollander

Acting Director, HQ Human Capital Office

Featured Speaker

Casey Swails

NASA Deputy Associate Administrator

Presentation of Honorees

Demetria Coonley
HQ Human Capital Office

Closing Remarks

Vanessa Wyche
NASA Acting Associate Administrator

Awards

Distinguished Service Medal

CONNELLY, SANDRA

For exceptional service to NASA over 30 years, advancing the impact and efficiency of the Nation's Earth and space enterprise.

FLYNN, KAREN

For exceptional service to NASA over 30 years, advancing the impact and efficiency of the Nation's Earth and space enterprise.

IANSON, ERIC

For exceptional service and leadership within NASA, advancing the impact and efficiency of the Nation's Earth and planetary enterprise.

JOHNSON, LINDLEY

For outstanding achievement in planetary defense and transforming it to a global effort protecting Earth from hazardous near-Earth objects through decades of dedicated work

Outstanding Leadership Medal

BLEACHER, JACOB

For outstanding, cross-directorate leadership of and advocacy for space exploration and technology integration in support of NASA's Moon to Mars Architecture.

GUSTETIC. JENNIFER

For outstanding leadership, innovation, and execution of STMD's Early Stage Innovation Programs.

KORRECK, KELLY

For exceptional and inspirational leadership serving as NASA's Program Manager for the 2023–24 solar eclipse initiatives.

LECROY, THERESA

For demonstrating exemplary leadership and management excellence that has led to significant advances in aerospace technologies of critical importance to NASA and the Nation.

SEASLY, ELAINE

For outstanding leadership in transforming NASA's planetary protection practices.

WEBB, CHARLES

For outstanding leadership and ensuring mission success as the Associate Director of Flight Programs at NASA.

WOODS, DANNY

For outstanding leadership and oversight of mission-enabling functions needed to achieve the enduring success of NASA's mission and goals.

Outstanding Public Leadership Award

THIBAULT, STEVEN

For exceptional leadership in the development of Mars Sample Return architectural options following the second program Independent Review Board.

Exceptional Service Medal

CARVER, ROBERT

For exceptional service contributing to the success of Human Capital initiatives to improve workforce planning and development.

COWAN. DARREN

For exceptional achievement, providing superior security support for a critical program across the Agency.

HU, WEI-YEN

For exceptional service to the Agency and Nation in support of critical ground test simulation and testing capabilities used by aerospace programs and projects.

KEITH, AMY

For exceptional technical expertise, leadership, and innovation in advancing NASA's missions and support activities.

LEE. TSENGDAR

For outstanding leadership of NASA's High End and Computing programs and Research-Operations Connections for NASA.

MACAULAY, CLAIRE

For exceptional and sustained performance that redefines excellence, enables NASA success, and inspires others to follow.

MANN, RICHARD

For exceptional leadership in advancing NASA's small business programs through expert data analytics, strategic metrics, and proficiency in federal reporting systems.

MCCLAIN, SHANNA

For exceptional service in standing up NASA's Disaster Response Coordination System.

TURNER, CAROLYN

For extraordinary service, unwavering commitment to excellence, and transformative contributions to significantly enhance NASA mishap prevention and readiness for the Agency.

VINOGRADOVA SHIFFER, NADYA

For outstanding leadership of NASA's Physical Oceanography program and support of interagency and international collaboration in the creation and use of satellite data.

Exceptional Public Service Award

BLAKE. DONALD

For exceptional contributions across four decades to NASA's Tropospheric Composition field campaigns and sustained commitment to NASA's Student Airborne Research Program.

BURROWS, JOHN

For exceptional leadership and collaboration over three decades with NASA that advanced the understanding of atmospheric composition on a global scale.

KIM, JHOON

For outstanding and exceptional collaboration in atmospheric research between NASA and South Korea, especially creating synergy between the TEMPO and GEMS missions.

LANDAU, ELIZABETH

For outstanding leadership in uniting essential communicators agency-wide and developing impactful products to share NASA's mission with the world.

Exceptional Engineering Achievement Honor

MCDONALD, HEATHER

For exceptional leadership in advancing NASA's engineering practices through innovative problem-solving and safety enhancements.

Exceptional Scientific Achievement Honor

GUHATHAKURTA, MADHULIKA

For exceptional achievement and excellence in support of Total Solar Eclipse study and observations..

WILLIAMS, JASON

For exceptional achievements and innovation with the Cold Atom Laboratory (CAL), advancing research and technology, and driving progress in exploration.

Exceptional Technology Achievement Honor

HILL, TERRY

For outstanding leadership in advancing NASA's digital engineering initiatives through secure, crossagency collaboration.

Exceptional Administrative Achievement Honor

CALLES, JESSICA

For exceptional leadership in enhancing service delivery, promoting cross-organizational collaboration, and leading nationwide events in heliophysics.

MITCHAM, FELICA

For exceptional initiative in establishing and managing processes critical for leadership decision making in the Moon to Mars Program Office to advance NASA exploration goals.

WEIR, ERICA

For exemplary support for the Communications Services Project and for SCaN's transition from Tracking and Data Relay Satellites to commercial space relay services.

Early Career Achievement Honor

ALFANO, MARY JO

For significant early-career contributions that enable NASA organizations and employees to leverage commercial cloud computing services in pursuit of mission objectives.

DEIBERT, JESSICA

For incredible initiative and success in accelerating digital upskilling of NASA's workforce by transforming the NASA Digital Academy and co-leading the Summer of Al campaign.

DIMISA, CHRISTOPHER

For outstanding leadership in protecting NASA interests in shaping national strategies for critical infrastructure by building a coalition of U.S. space operators.

HARRIS, CHARLES

For exceptional work developing and implementing an innovative strategy to advance NASA priorities, goals, and missions.

YOUNG, JOHN

For exceptional initiative and development of sophisticated, integrated budget models instrumental in aligning complex budget and program elements with NASA's ambitious goals.

Group Achievement Award

CORONAGRAPH INSTRUMENT TEAM

For exceptional commitment to the goal, quality of work, and development of an innovative space instrument that will serve as the foundation for future astrophysics research.

DEEP SPACE NETWORK LEADERSHIP TEAM

For exemplary cross-network engineering efforts to provide emergency station-keeping support for Telemetry Data Relay Satellites with the Deep Space Network.

ECLIPSE CORE TEAM

For outstanding teamwork in developing and executing NASA's 2023–24 eclipse events, delivering exceptional public engagement and outreach across the Nation.

G-INVOICING REIMBURSABLE AGREEMENTS SELLER TEAM

For outstanding support by the Reimbursable Agreements Seller Team (RAST) leading to NASA's successful, first-ever "Go Live" in Treasury's new Federal-wide G-invoicing system.

HQ HEALTH AND SAFETY CUSTOMER SERVICE

For outstanding HQ health and safety customer service.

IVANTI INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM

For exceptional, thorough, and fast Ivanti security response ensuring the availability, confidentiality, and integrity of all NASA systems and data.

JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

For outstanding leadership in the worldwide communications of JWST images and accomplishments.

MARS SAMPLE RETURN CAMPAIGN STUDY TEAM

For outstanding analysis and safety input Into the design of the Sample Receiving Facility for the Mars Sample Return Campaign.

MARS SAMPLE RETURN IRB RESPONSE TEAM

For outstanding and comprehensive response to the MSR IRB report resulting in wholesale evolution of the MSR mission.

MDM TRANSITION PROJECT

For the outstanding efforts and dedication in executing a successful transition to a modernized Agency Mobile Device Management (MDM) service.

NASA DUE DILIGENCE TEAM

For exceptional collaboration driving efficiencies through standardizing the NASA Due Diligence process.

NASA ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS SYSTEMS TEAM

The NASA Electronic Health Records Systems Team is nominated for exceptional achievement and innovation in protecting the integrity and security of health records.

NASA ENTERPRISE CLOUD CONTRACT ACQUISITION TEAM

For successfully awarding NASA's next enterprise laaS-PaaS cloud computing contract, featuring significant improvements and advantageous pricing.

NASA LASER SAFETY REVIEW BOARD

For exceptional achievement and innovation in protecting the health of the public from the dangers of outdoor laser projects.

NASA MOVES! TEAM

For exceptional achievement and innovation in improving the physical and mental health and well-being of NASA employees.

NASA OBSERVATION SATELLITE LEADERSHIP TEAM

For exceptional unwavering commitment, determination, and creativity, always believing in the groundbreaking technology that NASA can produce.

NASA OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS ECLIPSE TEAM

For exceptional creativity in leveraging the 2024 total solar eclipse for the benefit of NASA, inspiring and engaging audiences around the world to recognize the Agency's value.

NASA STEM GATEWAY DEVELOPMENT TEAM

For exceptional contributions to NASA digital transformation efforts through the high-impact development and deployment of the NASA STEM Gateway system.

NASA STOP THE BLEED TEAM

The Stop the Bleed Team is nominated for exceptional achievement and innovation by enhancing emergency preparedness through training and deploying Bleeding Control Kits.

NASA'S WEB MODERNIZATION TEAMS

For exceptional innovation to modernize and streamline NASA's public web experience.

NEOWISE MISSION TEAM

For outstanding and extraordinary contribution of the NEOWISE team to planetary defense and our understanding of potentially hazardous NEOs, small bodies, and the cosmos.

OPS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM

For exceptional execution of the Federal Government-wide Continuity of Operations exercise (Eagle Horizon 2024).

OSI BASE SERVICE LEVEL TEAM

For exceptional dedication in creating OSI's first comprehensive Catalog of Base Services Levels, enhancing efficiency, improving transparency, and increasing affordability.

OSI STRATEGIC WORKFORCE PLAN DEVELOPMENT TEAM

For outstanding dedication to NASA's talented workforce, pouring countless hours into leading working groups to generate OSI's first integrated Strategic Workforce Plan.

OSIRIS-REX CURATION TEAM

For exceptional perseverance in acquiring, curating, and distributing Bennu astromaterials from NASA's first asteroid sample return mission.

PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION (P&E) TEAM

The P&E Team excelled in generating evidence supporting data-driven decision making and innovative evaluation practices, as well as fostering continuous improvement across programs.

PHASE E COST STUDY INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT TEAM

For outstanding work investigating the source and recommending solutions to Phase E cost growth during development across the NASA portfolio.

SANTA SUSANA FIELD LABORATORY CULTURAL RESOURCES

For exceptional leadership in strengthening NASA's nation-to-nation relationships.

SBIR IGNITE PILOT

For exceptional implementation of the SBIR Ignite Pilot, an experimental solicitation to fund ideas relevant in the commercial market and contribute to the Agency's missions.

SECOND MARS SAMPLE RETURN INDEPENDENT REVIEW BOARD

For outstanding contributions to a comprehensive report pointing the way to a successful Mars Sample Return mission.

SFFAS 54 LEASE IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

For outstanding leadership in successfully implementing Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Standards 54: Leases.

SOFIA PROJECT/LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT CLOSEOUT TEAM

For exceptional financial management resulting in exiting a NASA-leased facility, saving the Agency \$22 million and closing a 27-year project by efficient disposition of NASA assets.

STEM ENGAGEMENT EARTHRISE AND ARTEMIS MOON TREES

For creative efforts, exceptional teamwork, and innovative partnerships with other Federal agencies, engaging thousands of educators and students Nationwide.

STMD RMO BUDGET AND WBS RESTRUCTURING

For exceptional support in restructuring the budget and work breakdown to transition from Technology Readiness Level (TRL) to Domain and Capability–based programs and projects.

STMD TECH BASE PRIORITIES TEAM

For outstanding technical approach to and communication of STMD's Inaugural Shortfall Survey.

SUMMER OF AI (SoAI) TEAM

For outstanding contributions to advancing AI awareness and education at NASA through the 2024 Summer of AI Learning Campaign.

TIPPING POINT TEAM

For the successful transition of procurement-based Tipping Point Awards to Funded Space Act Agreements for Commercial In-Space and Lunar Infrastructure Technology Capabilities.

WHITE SANDS COMPLEX TDRS ENGINEERING TEAM

For exceptional engineering leadership in overcoming critical power system challenges for TDRS-10 during the fall eclipse season, ensuring continuity in mission support.

Exceptional Achievement Medal

FINLEY, PATRICK

For exceptional leadership in securing a historic partnership with Japan to support NASA's future astronaut missions to the Moon under Artemis.

HAYS, LINDSAY

For exceptional and innovative processes to conduct the Mars Sample Return Rapid Mission Design Studies solicitation and selection in record time.

JAYATILAKE, NADEEKA

For outstanding leadership in implementing uniform procedures across the Mission Support Enterprise Offices in support of the Mission Support Future Architecture Program.

KEARNS, SHEA

For outstanding work enabling the future of the Mars Sample Return mission through service as the Review Manager of the MIRT.

KLEIN, REBECCA

For exceptional leadership in preserving NASA history.

KREMER, JENNIFER

For exceptional success in developing and implementing OSI's acquisition governance, strategy, and process, significantly enhancing efficiencies across the Enterprise.

LOWRY. BROOKE

For designing and implementing an innovative, transparent, and rigorous process to identify national civil space shortfall priorities to guide STMD investments.

MANN, GREGORY

For exceptional achievement in securing a historic partnership with Japan to support NASA's future astronaut missions to the Moon under the Artemis program.

ROHLOFF, KATHERINE

For exceptional innovation and dedication in communicating NASA's Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena study, enhancing global understanding and engagement.

SOSA, JUANA

For exceptional and sustained performance in human resources, demonstrating innovation and excellence, significantly enhancing NASA.

TILMAN, JUSTIN

For stewardship of NASA's strategic partnership with Europe on the Mars Sample Return campaign.

Exceptional Public Achievement Award

HERNANDEZ, DEBRA

For exceptional leadership of public engagement activities, particularly for the 2024 total solar eclipse.

KLUG BOONSTRA, SHERI

For outstanding achievements in student training on NASA's Lucy mission, addressing critical engineering workforce development needs of the Nation.

LUCHIK, THOMAS

For outstanding leadership advancing and committing to the goal and effective management of the Coronograph Instrument.

MCCUISTION, JAMES

For exceptional leadership of NASA's Mars Sample Return Independent Review Board Response Team (MIRT).

OUDRHIRI, KAMAL

For exceptional management innovation of the Cold Atom Laboratory enabling the U.S. to lead the world in the spacebased quantum discipline.

Silver Achievement Honor

CRANK, ANTANESE

For outstanding leadership in improving NASA grant/ cooperative agreement operations for both technical and strategic direction to improve stakeholders' compliance and experience.

KRAGE, FREDERIC

For outstanding leadership in transforming NASA's satellite system approval processes, ensuring rigorous compliance and accelerated mission readiness.

STROMGREN, CHEL

For exceptional leadership of the objective decomposition and satisfaction analysis process in support of NASA's Moon to Mars Architecture.

Silver Group Achievement Award

ARCHITECTURE ROADMAPPING TEAM

For leading the exceptional design and implementation of an architecture decision roadmapping process and decision trade space model for NASA's Moon to Mars Architecture.

BPS BAH TEAM

For outstanding leadership and support in creating an effective strategy to implement the Decadal Survey.

GREAT LAKES SCIENCE CENTER EXHIBITION TEAM

For outstanding dedication to public service incorporating the NASA mission into the GLSC.

INITIAL SURFACE HABITAT PHASE 1 MCR TEAM

For exceptional work on the initial surface habitat element maturation, ensuring a successful journey from element initiation to the mission concept review.

ISECG GER TEAM

For exceptional dedication, creativity, and professionalism in developing the 2024 International Space Exploration Coordination Group (ISECG) Global Exploration Roadmap (GER).

LUNAR ASSET MAPPING TEAM

For exceptional, thoughtful systems engineering analysis to map functions with assets and elements within NASA's Moon to Mars Architecture.

MHU-8 MISSION TEAM

For outstanding and successful execution of an international multi-PI NASA-JAXA ISS mission using spaceflight to examine the biological effects of gravity as a continuum.

MOON2MARS SE&I MODELING, V&V AND REQUIREMENTS TEAM

For exceptional model-based systems engineering, architecture, requirements, concept of operations, and verification planning to establish the Moon to Mars technical baseline.

NASA ENTERPRISE INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS (EIS)

For outstanding achievement in completing the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA) mandate to eliminate duplication and waste in IT.

THE NASA COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES CONTRACT TEAM

For exceptional commitment to the effective administration of the NASA Communication Services contract.

WALLOPS ISLAND CAUSEWAY BRIDGE PROCUREMENT TEAM

For exceptional teamwork and project management excellence during the procurement of the design-build contract to replace the Wallops Island Causeway Bridge.

Honorable Mentions

ADAMSON, JAMES

For distinguished service of more than 30 years of contributions to the NASA ISS Advisory Committee as one of the initial members.

BACK, KYLE

For exceptional leadership and service, and for embodying NASA's core values of integrity and excellence while directing OCFO's Business Management Office.

CUNNINGHAM, JEFFREY

For distinguished contributions to the office of the Chief Human Capital Officer.

GIPSON, LILLIAN

For exceptional achievement in transitioning ARMD content to a new NASA.gov and for epitomizing NASA's core values of integrity, teamwork, and excellence in service to ARMD.

JOHNSON, FRED

For your outstanding contributions to the NASA mission over the past 37 years.

MOUER, MELISSA

For exceptional commitment, outstanding performance, and exemplary results as OCFO's Enterprise Business Manager.

NORDLUND, FREDRIC

For leadership, dedication, and unyielding commitment to Transatlantic Civil Space Cooperation.

READDY, WILLIAM

For more than 10 years of contributions to the NASA ISS Advisory Committee as a Member and Vice Chairman.

Agency Honor Awards Descriptions

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

This is NASA's highest form of recognition that is awarded to any government employee who, by distinguished service, ability, or vision has personally contributed to NASA's advancement of United States' interests. The individual's achievement or contribution must demonstrate a level of excellence that has made a profound or indelible impact on NASA mission success, and therefore, the contribution is so extraordinary that other forms of recognition by NASA would be inadequate. Honorees previously awarded Outstanding Leadership Medal/Outstanding Public Leadership Award and Exceptional Service Medal/Exceptional Public Service Award leading up to this nomination will be highly factored into the decisions for recommendation and approval.

OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP MEDAL

This prestigious NASA medal is awarded to any government employees for notable leadership accomplishments that have significantly influenced the NASA mission. Sustained leadership and exceptionally high-impact leadership achievements should demonstrate the individual's effectiveness in advancing the Agency's goals and image in present and future terms.

OUTSTANDING PUBLIC LEADERSHIP AWARD

This prestigious NASA recognition is awarded to non-government individuals or to an individual who was not a government employee during the period in which the accomplishment was achieved for notable leadership accomplishments that have significantly influenced the NASA mission. Sustained leadership and exceptionally high-impact leadership achievements should demonstrate the individual's effectiveness in advancing the Agency's goals and image in present and future terms.

EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE MEDAL

This prestigious NASA medal is awarded to any government employee for sustained performance that embodies multiple contributions that contribute to NASA projects, programs, or initiatives.

EXCEPTIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

This prestigious NASA recognition is awarded to nongovernmental individuals or to an individual who was not a government employee during the period in which the service was performed for sustained performance that embodies multiple contributions to NASA projects, programs, or initiatives.

EXCEPTIONAL ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT HONOR

This prestigious NASA medal is awarded to both government and non-government individuals for exceptional engineering contributions toward achievement of the NASA mission. This award is given for individual efforts for applications of engineering principles or methods that have resulted in a contribution of fundamental importance in this field or have significantly enhanced understanding of this field or have significantly advanced the state of the practice as demonstrated by an application to aerospace systems.

MADHULIKA GUHATHAKURTA

This prestigious NASA medal is awarded to both government and non-government individuals for exceptional scientific contributions (specific, concrete scientific achievements) toward achievement of the NASA mission. The award is given for individual efforts that have resulted in a key scientific discovery or resulted in one or more contributions of fundamental importance in this field or significantly enhanced understanding of the field. Scientific contributions typically result from reasoned investigations or studies of phenomena using collected data and observations, current scientific theories and formulae, and the scientific method and/or other formal techniques to attain enduring principles.

EXCEPTIONAL TECHNOLOGY ACHIEVEMENT HONOR

This prestigious NASA medal is awarded to government or non-government individuals for exceptional technology contributions.

EXCEPTIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE ACHIEVEMENT HONOR

This prestigious NASA recognition is awarded to any civil service employee in the NASA classification 500 group* or non-government equivalent for a significant, specific achievement or contribution that clearly demonstrates a substantial improvement in administrative support contributing to NASA's mission. The criteria should also include exceptional initiative in developing and implementing processes, methods, or operations that resulted in improvements to the office or program activities and/or operations.

EARLY CAREER ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

This prestigious NASA medal is awarded to any government or non-government employee for unusual and significant performance during the first 10 years of an individual's career in support of the NASA mission. Performance is characterized by unusual initiative or a creative achievement that clearly demonstrates a significant contribution in the individual's discipline area that directly contributes to NASA's mission and goals.

GROUP ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This prestigious NASA certificate is awarded to any combination of government and/or non-government individuals for an outstanding group accomplishment that has contributed substantially to NASA's mission.

EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

This prestigious NASA medal is awarded to any government employee for a significant specific achievement or substantial improvement in operations, efficiency, service, financial savings, science, or technology that contributes to the mission of NASA.

EXCEPTIONAL PUBLIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This prestigious NASA recognition is awarded to nongovernment individuals or to any individual who was not a government employee during the period in which the achievement was accomplished. The award is for a significant specific achievement or substantial improvement in operations, efficiency, service, financial savings, science, or technology that contributes to the mission of NASA.

SILVER ACHIEVEMENT HONOR

This prestigious NASA medal is awarded to any government or non-government employee for a stellar achievement that supports one or more of NASA's core values when it is deemed to be extraordinarily important and appropriate to recognize such achievement in a timely and personalized manner.

SILVER GROUP ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This prestigious NASA certificate is awarded to any combination of government and/or non-government individuals for a stellar achievement that supports one or more of NASA's core values when it is deemed to be extraordinarily important and appropriate to recognize such achievement in a timely and personalized manner.

Special appreciation is extended to the NASA Acting Associate Administrator, Vanessa Wyche; NASA Deputy Associate Administrator, Casey Swails; Acting Director, Human Capital Office, Leah Hollander; Deputy Director, Human Capital Office, Nadeeka Jayatilake; Talent Management and Development Chief, Brandon Haygood; Headquarters and Mission Support Enterprise Offices Awards Program Manager, Jennifer L. Heeke; Headquarters and Mission Support Enterprise Offices Awards Officer, Demetria Coonley; Headquarters Awards Team, Monika Mayfield and Kristin Vollin; Headquarters Audiovisual Team; Headquarters Facilities Team; and our ceremony volunteers for their contributions to making today's recognition event a success.

The Headquarters Human Capital Office is thankful for the dedication and contributions of the Headquarters Awards Review Panel; the Chairs for the 2024–25 program year, Brett Swanson and Mary Skow; and the nomination review panel members.

We would like to extend a special thanks to the NASA Shared Services Center for coordinating award mementos.

To the extraordinary honorees, we thank you for participating in today's event and wish you much continued success in all of your endeavors.

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