

# Leveraging Industry and Supply Chains for Future Technology

The Center for Space Education, Kennedy Space Center,  
 Florida September 9, 2025

## General Session (Max Leo Algace North Hall)

Time	Session Title / Speaker(s)	Speaker(s)/Panelists
8:00 AM	Welcome Pledge of Allegiance	<b>Mr. Charles T. Williams</b> Chief of Staff NASA Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP)
8:05 AM	Opening Remarks	<b>Mr. Dwight D. Deneal</b> Assistant Administrator, NASA OSBP
8:15 AM	Remarks from NASA Leadership	<b>Ms. Casey L. Swails</b> Deputy Associate Administrator, NASA
8:30 AM	Remarks from NASA Kennedy Space Center Senior Leadership	<b>Mr. Gerald Norris</b> Director Office of Procurement NASA Kennedy Space Center (KSC)
8:45 AM	U.S. House of Representatives Congressman Mike Haridopolos 8th District Florida	<b>Ms. Pam Persse</b> District Director
9:00 AM	United States Senate Ashley Moody, Senator for Florida	<b>Mr. Alexander Quiñones</b> Central Florida Regional Director
9:15 AM	Program Office Perspectives Mission Priorities and Needs	<b>Mr. Shawn Quinn</b> Manager Exploration Ground Systems Program, NASA KSC
9:40 AM	NASA Astronaut Keynote	<b>Mr. Andrew M. Allen</b> Chief Executive Officer Aerodyne Industries, LLC
10:00 AM	NASA Product Service Lines Overview and Update	<b>Mr. Edwin Martinez</b> Deputy Director Office of Procurement, NASA KSC
10:15 AM	Office of Advocacy U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)	<b>Mr. Chip W. Bishop III</b> Deputy Chief Counsel, SBA Office of Advocacy
10:30 AM	Small Business Funding Pathways SBA Programs	<b>Ms. Dianna Seaborn</b> Deputy Associate Administrator SBA Office of Capital Access
10:40 AM	Manufacturing in Space	<b>Amber M. Paul, PhD</b> Assistant Professor Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
11:00 AM	Office of STEM Engagement (OSTEM)	<b>Holly Miller, PhD</b> Federal Liaison, NASA OSTEM
11:15 AM	NASA Center of Excellence for Collaborative Innovation (CoECI)	<b>Mr. Ryon Stewart</b> Acting Program Manager, NASA CoECI
11:35 AM	Aerospace to Atoms: Energizing the Future of the Nuclear Supply Chain	<b>Mr. Anthony Briggs</b> Small Business Program Manager U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11:50 AM	Closing Remarks and Call to Action	<b>Mr. Dwight D. Deneal</b>

## Exhibit Hall (Max Leo Algace South Hall)

**12:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

NASA Centers, Industry Partners, and Resource Agencies featuring an **AI Autonomous Vehicle HUB**, with hands-on demos and technology showcases

## Prime “Pitch” Business Matchmaking (Artemis Arena)

**1:00 PM – 4:00 PM (by appointment only)**

Small Business 1:1s with NASA, Primes, and Partners

## Breakout Sessions

**1:00 – 2:00 PM**

### ▶ Max Leo Algace North Hall

#### ▶ Access to Capital Panel

**Moderator: Mr. Dwight D. Deneal**

Assistant Administrator, NASA OSBP

**Mr. John Hale III**

Chief Executive Officer, The Cornerstone Group

**Ms. Christa L. Williams**

Senior Vice President, Government Contracting  
Regional SME, Bank of America

**Ms. Dianna Seaborn**

Deputy Associate Administrator  
Office of Capital Access, U.S. SBA

### ▶ Classroom 7010A

#### ▶ NASA SBIR/STTR Overview: TechPort, Digital Twin, Project Voice, Research and Development

**Mr. Micheal E. Vinje**

SBIR Technology Infusion Manager, NASA KSC

**Mr. Bradley C. Buckles**

Automation and Robotics Systems, NASA KSC

### ▶ Classroom 7030

#### ▶ Office of Advocacy, U.S. SBA

**Mr. Chip W. Bishop III**

Deputy Chief Counsel, SBA Office of Advocacy

**Mr. Geoffrey Grove**

National Advocate for Manufacturing, Energy & Technology  
SBA Office of Advocacy

**2:15 – 3:15 PM**

### ▶ Max Leo Algace North Hall

#### ▶ Doing Business with NASA Primes

**Moderator: Mr. Christopher B. Hall**

Program Manager, NASA OSBP

**Mr. Michael A. Bush**

Corporate Director, Northrup Grumman Corporation

**Mr. David Canada**

Director Strategic Sourcing and Partnerships

The Boeing Company

**Mr. Nick Dugan**

Small Business Liaison Office, Lockheed Martin - Space

**Mr. Armando Alves**

Manager, Supply Chain - Starship Thermal Hardware, SpaceX

### ▶ Classroom 7010A

#### ▶ Doing Business with NASA - OSBP

**Ms. E. Ann Haase**

Program Manager, NASA OSBP

**Ms. Danielle R. Barnes**

Small Business Specialist, NASA OSBP, MSFC

### ▶ Classroom 7030

#### ▶ Small Business Funding Pathways: SBA Programs 7(a), 504, Microloans, Surety Bonds

**Ms. Dianna Seaborn**

Deputy Associate Administrator  
SBA Office of Capital Access

## Exhibitors

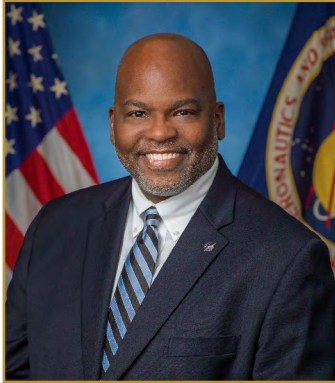
a.i. solutions, Inc.	<a href="https://ai-solutions.com/">https://ai-solutions.com/</a>
Aegis Aerospace, Inc.	<a href="https://aegisaero.com/">https://aegisaero.com/</a>
Aerodyne Industries, LLC	<a href="https://www.aerodyneindustries.com/">https://www.aerodyneindustries.com/</a>
AFCEA Space Coast - AI HUB	<a href="https://afceaspacecoast.org/">https://afceaspacecoast.org/</a>
Amentum Space Port, LLC	<a href="https://www.amentum.com/our-capabilities/space-systems/space-ports/">https://www.amentum.com/our-capabilities/space-systems/space-ports/</a>
Amentum	<a href="https://www.amentum.com/">https://www.amentum.com/</a>
A-P-T Research, Inc.	<a href="https://www.ap-t-research.com/">https://www.ap-t-research.com/</a>
ARES Technical Corporation	<a href="https://www.arescorporation.com/">https://www.arescorporation.com/</a>
Astrion	<a href="https://astrion.us/">https://astrion.us/</a>
Blue Origin	<a href="https://www.blueorigin.com/">https://www.blueorigin.com/</a>
Cyber Florida	<a href="https://cyberflorida.org/">https://cyberflorida.org/</a>
Florida High Tech Corridor - AI HUB	<a href="https://floridahightech.com/">https://floridahightech.com/</a>
Florida Small business Development Center (SBDC)	<a href="https://floridasbdc.org/">https://floridasbdc.org/</a>
FloridaMakes	<a href="https://www.floridamakes.com/">https://www.floridamakes.com/</a>
HSG Inc.	<a href="https://hsginc.org/">https://hsginc.org/</a>
Jones Edmunds & Associates, Inc.	<a href="https://jonesedmunds.com/">https://jonesedmunds.com/</a>
KBR	<a href="https://www.kbr.com/">https://www.kbr.com/</a>
Lockheed Martin Corporation	<a href="https://www.lockheedmartin.com/">https://www.lockheedmartin.com/</a>
NASA Center of Excellence for Collaborative Innovation (CoECI)	<a href="https://www.nasa.gov/coeci/">https://www.nasa.gov/coeci/</a>
NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL)	<a href="https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/">https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/</a>
NASA KSC Exploration Ground Systems	<a href="https://www.nasa.gov/humans-in-space/exploration-ground-systems/">https://www.nasa.gov/humans-in-space/exploration-ground-systems/</a>
NASA KSC SBIR-STTR - AI HUB	<a href="https://www.nasa.gov/sbir_sttr/">https://www.nasa.gov/sbir_sttr/</a>
NASA Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP)	<a href="https://www.nasa.gov/osbp/">https://www.nasa.gov/osbp/</a>
OSBP NASA Vendor Database (NVDB)	<a href="https://www.nasa.gov/osbp/vendor-database/">https://www.nasa.gov/osbp/vendor-database/</a>
NASA Partnerships Office	<a href="https://www.nasa.gov/partnerships/">https://www.nasa.gov/partnerships/</a>
Northrop Grumman Corporation	<a href="https://www.northropgrumman.com/">https://www.northropgrumman.com/</a>
Office of Advocacy, U.S. Small Business Administration	<a href="https://advocacy.sba.gov/">https://advocacy.sba.gov/</a>
Patton Consulting Group	<a href="https://pattonconsulting.org/">https://pattonconsulting.org/</a>
Peraton, Inc.	<a href="https://www.peraton.com/">https://www.peraton.com/</a>
Salas O'Brien	<a href="https://salasobrien.com/">https://salasobrien.com/</a>
Solar Transport Systems	<a href="https://intisolarcar.com/">https://intisolarcar.com/</a>
Space Launch Delta 45 - AI HUB	<a href="https://www.patrick.spaceforce.mil/">https://www.patrick.spaceforce.mil/</a>
SpaceX	<a href="https://www.spacex.com/">https://www.spacex.com/</a>
Science Systems and Applications, Inc.	<a href="https://www.ssaihq.com/">https://www.ssaihq.com/</a>
Central Florida Tech Grove - AI HUB	<a href="https://centralfloridatechgrove.org/">https://centralfloridatechgrove.org/</a>
The Boeing Company	<a href="https://www.boeing.com/">https://www.boeing.com/</a>
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission	<a href="https://www.nrc.gov/">https://www.nrc.gov/</a>
U.S. Small Business Administration	<a href="https://www.sba.gov/">https://www.sba.gov/</a>
UCF Florida Space Institute - AI HUB	<a href="https://fsi.ucf.edu/">https://fsi.ucf.edu/</a>
United Launch Alliance	<a href="https://www.ulalaunch.com/">https://www.ulalaunch.com/</a>

EXHIBITORS

# Leveraging Industry and Supply Chains for Future Technology

The Center for Space Education, Kennedy Space Center,  
Florida September 9, 2025

## List of Speakers



### Mr. Charles "Chuck" Williams

Chief of Staff

NASA Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP)

Mr. Charles "Chuck" Williams currently serves as a Program Manager for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA's) Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP) in Washington, DC. Mr. Williams oversees the Office of Industry Engagement and Strategic Communication Office (IESC). This office is committed to cultivating robust partnerships, delivering effective communication strategies, and empowering small business to thrive within the NASA small business ecosystem.

As a Program Manager, Mr. Williams is responsible for providing small business guidance by interpreting Federal and Agency-wide policy; and has 35 years of experience with the Federal government. Mr. Williams has an Electrical Engineering Degree and brings this technical background and expertise to the small business program at NASA.

Mr. Williams began his federal career with the Department of Energy in Oak Ridge, TN. There he served in many positions from Electrical Engineer, Safety Engineer, Environmental Program Manager, and as the Small Business Program manager. Chuck began his career with NASA in August 2006 at the Johnson Space Center (JSC) where he served as the Senior Small Business Specialist, the Center Technical Advisor, and the POC for the JSC Mentor Protégé Program. There he supported many Source Evaluation Boards, and lead JSC to efforts to receiving an Excellent rating from SBA's Program Review.



### Mr. Dwight Deneal

Assistant Administrator

NASA Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP)

Mr. Dwight Deneal is the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Small Business Programs at NASA Headquarters in Washington. In this role, Deneal provides executive leadership, policy direction, and management for programs that help ensure small businesses are given a fair chance to work with the agency.

Having joined NASA Feb. 14, 2024, Deneal brings over a decade of experience leading small business and federal acquisition programs to the agency. Prior to his arrival at NASA, he served as the director for the Defense Logistics Agency's Office of Small Business Programs, where he supervised all small business programs and contracting activities.

Prior to that, Deneal also served as the director for the Small Business and Industry Liaison Programs at the U.S. Coast Guard, part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. In

this capacity, he led all small business and socio-economic related guidelines, policies, regulations, and was the authority for planning and carrying out acquisition activities in support of small business programs. Deneal's experience also includes supporting the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Education, and U.S Department of Navy.

In addition to his NASA role, Deneal serves as the vice chairman of the Federal Interagency Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Directors Council. This organization of federal small business program officials meet regularly to exchange and discuss information on small business methods, issues, and strategies.

A native of Columbia, South Carolina, Deneal graduated from Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia, where he earned a bachelor's in business management. He also is a graduate of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government Executive Education program. Deneal was the recipient of the 2018 U.S. Department of Homeland Security Chief Procurement Officer Excellence in Industry Engagement Award. He is married and has two children.

## List of Speakers *cont.*



### **Ms. Casey Swails**

**NASA Deputy Associate Administrator  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)**

Ms. Casey Swails is NASA's Deputy Associate Administrator, serving as the agency's deputy chief operating officer for more than 18,000 employees and an annual budget of more than \$25 billion. She is the deputy and principal advisor to the associate administrator for overall day-to-day operations and long-term strategic direction across NASA's 10 field centers, mission directorates, and staff organizations. She establishes the overall strategy, framework, and structure for NASA's integrated mission support portfolio and builds and advances the agency's industry partnerships.

In addition, she is leading NASA 2040, the agency's strategic initiative to ensure NASA remains the preeminent institution for research, technology, and engineering to lead science, aeronautics, and space exploration for humanity in the year 2040.

Previously, Swails served as the chief of staff and senior advisor to the associate administrator, as well as the agency's acting deputy chief of staff during the presidential transition. In those positions, she ensured the effective flow of operations across NASA's workforce and represented the agency in the alignment of policy, strategy, priorities, and program development.

Prior to joining the administrator's office at NASA, she led many of the agency's significant change management initiatives. This included leadership of the largest human capital transformation effort in NASA's history, resulting in the successful merger of 10 separate human resources offices into one enterprise organization and the realignment of more than 500 human capital employees and corresponding \$90 million budget.

Also noteworthy was her leadership in the design and creation of the agencywide Executive Services Division, which manages programs for attracting, retaining, and developing NASA's executive cadre of more than 600 senior leaders. With more than 19 years at NASA, Swails has had substantial involvement working across multiple NASA centers and with many of the agency's human spaceflight programs, including the International Space Station Program, Orion, and the early Commercial Crew and Gateway programs, which are recognized as leading models for the agency today.

Swails holds a Bachelor of Science in management from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a Master of Business Administration from Duke University, and she has completed executive education at Harvard Business School and INSEAD. She was recognized as one of Georgia Tech's 40 Under 40 distinguished alumni and serves on the board of trustees for the Georgia Tech Alumni Association. Swails is a member of the International Women's Forum and was selected for the 2022-2023 leadership fellows class.



### **Mr. Gerald Norris**

**Director, Office of Procurement  
NASA Kennedy Space Center (KSC)**

Mr. Gerald Norris is the Director of Procurement at NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Center in Florida. He is responsible for leading and managing the overall operation of Kennedy procurement activities, including planning and implementing acquisition strategies, issuing solicitations, conducting negotiations, processing awards, and administering contracts for Kennedy programs and projects, as well as enterprise-wide institutional portfolio contracting activity totaling over \$40B.

He previously served as procurement officer and senior procurement official for Stennis Space Center in Mississippi, where he was responsible for providing a \$4.7B acquisition management program for NASA.

Norris joined the NASA team in 2006 with the Stennis Office of Procurement, where he served in various progressive leadership capacities, including contracting officer in the Center Management Support Division, Program Management division chief, and deputy procurement officer.

Norris began his government career in the United States Air Force, where he served his country for over 21 years.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in business administration from Park University in Parkville, Missouri.

SPEAKERS

## List of Speakers *cont.*



**Ms. Pam Persse**  
District Director  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Congressman Mike Haridopolos

Ms. Pam Persse was born and raised in Brevard County, proudly calling the “big city” of Rockledge, Florida, home.

After living in several places, she spent two decades in Alabama raising her family before returning to Brevard County in 2015. Her family’s history of small business ownership and public service has shaped her deep commitment to community and country.

With a diverse career background and strong conservative values, Pam is well-prepared to serve as Congressman Haridopolos’s District Director.

She applies her private-sector insight and high standards to ensure accountability, responsiveness, and excellence on behalf of the constituents she serves.

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**Mr. Shawn Quinn**  
Manager  
Exploration Ground Systems Program, NASA

Mr. Shawn Quinn is the manager of NASA’s Exploration Ground Systems Program at the John F. Kennedy Space Center.

In this position, he is responsible for leading the government and contractor team that is preparing the ground systems, infrastructure, facilities, and operations required to process and launch NASA’s space launch systems and spacecraft in support of the Artemis program and our nation’s return to the Moon.

Prior to his current role, Quinn was director of Engineering, where he led a large organization of engineers from multiple disciplines in the design, development, and operations of spaceflight hardware and ground systems in support of programs and projects assigned to the Kennedy Space Center, including Commercial Crew, Launch Services, Exploration

Ground Systems, and the International Space Station.

Quinn has previous experience with the Exploration Ground Systems Program, where he served as the associate program manager. In that position, he was responsible for ground systems development activities, including design, development, integration, fabrication, construction, activation, and verification and validation of facilities, systems, ground support equipment, and operations planning and execution activities leading to NASA’s exploration missions.

Preceding his appointment to the senior executive service, Quinn was the Vehicle Integration and Launch Integration Product Team (VIL IPT) manager. He was responsible for the operations and development of systems at Kennedy’s Launch Complex 39, including the launch pads, mobile launcher, crawler transporter and Vehicle Assembly Building. As manager of the IPT, Quinn oversaw the overall planning and implementation of modifications of Launch Complex 39 systems to support the processing and launch of the Space Launch System and Orion spacecraft.

Quinn also served as the chief of the Lunar Systems Division in Kennedy’s Constellation Project Office. He was responsible for development of operations concepts and systems to support ground processing and launch of NASA’s lunar spacecraft, including landers and surface systems planned for future human and robotic missions. In this capacity, he had oversight for lunar-phase architecture planning for Kennedy in support of the Lunar Capability Concept Review. Prior to his assignment in the Constellation Project Office, he was the requirements and operations manager in the Kennedy Exploration Office.

Quinn has nearly 30 years of experience at Kennedy. He first joined NASA in 1985 in the Engineering Cooperative Education Program at Kennedy while studying for his degree in electrical engineering. As an undergraduate, he also assisted in the development of computer vision systems at the Georgia Tech Research Institute.

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## List of Speakers *cont.*



**Mr. Andrew Allen**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Aerodyne Industries, LLC

Mr. Andrew Allen is the founder and CEO of Aerodyne Industries LLC, a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business that is an award-winning engineering and IT solutions company located in Cape Canaveral, FL. Aerodyne has employees in ten states.

Previously, he was the Vice President and General Manager (GM) of Jacobs Space Operations Group (JSOG) at NASA's Kennedy Space Center (KSC). JSOG provided overall management and implementation of ground systems capabilities, flight hardware processing and launch operations at KSC as part of the Test and Operations Support Contract (TOSC). He also previously served as President and CEO of Global Safety Labs (GSL), a leading-edge provider of new technologies and products to the fire suppression and safety industry.

From 2004 to 2007, Mr. Allen held executive assignments with Honeywell, serving as Vice President of Space Programs and Requirements, Vice President of International Military Aircraft Programs, and Vice President of Space Systems Sales and Marketing.

Prior to joining Honeywell in 2004, Mr. Allen worked from 1998 to 2004 for United Space Alliance (USA), the prime contractor for NASA operations and maintenance of the Space Shuttle fleet, astronaut training and Mission Control. His most recent position with USA was Program Manager for Ground Operations, where he managed and led more than 4,000 employees performing Space Shuttle processing, launch and landing operations at KSC in Florida.

Before joining USA, Mr. Allen served as a NASA Astronaut. Selected by NASA in June 1987, he is a three-time space flight veteran and Space Shuttle Commander with over 900 hours in space. During his 10 years with NASA, Mr. Allen also served in a number of technical and management assignments, culminating in his final assignment as the Director of the International Space Station in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Allen received his commission in the United States Marine Corps at Villanova University in 1977. As a Marine Corps aviator, he flew F-4 and F-18 aircraft and graduated from the Marine Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course, the Naval Fighter Weapons School (Top Gun) and the United States Navy Test Pilot School. Before retiring from the Marine Corps in 1997, Mr. Allen logged over 6,000 flight hours in more than 30 different military aircraft.

Mr. Allen holds a number of distinguished honors, including: Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Single Mission Air Medal, NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal, NASA Exceptional Service Medal, NASA Space Flight Medal, and the National Space Club's Space Heroes and Legends Award for significant achievements to American aerospace in 2017. He also received the Ernst & Young

Florida Entrepreneur of the Year award in 2022 for the growth and success of Aerodyne Industries.

Mr. Allen is also Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Coalition for Deep Space Exploration (CDSE), is a member of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots and Association of Space Explorers, and serves on a number of Academic and Non-Profit Advisory Boards.

Mr. Allen earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Villanova University and a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Florida. He also holds three honorary doctorate degrees in Public Service, Engineering Science, and Aerospace Management.

Mr. Allen is married and has four children.

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## List of Speakers *cont.*



**Mr. Edwin Martinez**  
Deputy Director  
Office of Procurement, NASA KSC

Mr. Edwin Martinez is Deputy Director for the Office of Procurement at NASA's Kennedy Space Center (KSC) in Florida. Mr. Martinez is responsible for managing, supervising, administering, leading, advising on, or performing work involving all aspects of the Procurement Office. Mr. Martinez manages a portfolio of contracts with a potential contractual value of \$40 billion supporting the various Institutional and Program activities at KSC.

Mr. Martinez's journey in NASA's KSC Procurement Office is a testament to his expertise and leadership. His progression from Contract Specialist to Contracting Officer, Lead Contract Specialist, Division Chief, and Deputy Director showcases his dedication and professional growth. His involvement in significant acquisitions for KSC major Programs and Institutional Services demonstrates his capabilities and achievements, inspiring others to strive for similar professional growth.

His unwavering commitment to the Agency and the KSC Diversity, Equality, Inclusion, and Accessibility Program is genuinely inspiring. He not only serves as a member of the KSC Diversity Council, but he has also served as the Chairman of the Hispanic Outreach and Leadership Alliance and currently holds the position of Co-Executive Champion of the Veterans Employee Resource Group.

Mr. Martinez has over 26 years of experience as an acquisition professional. He began his federal civilian service 1998 as a Contract Specialist Intern for the Department of Defense Army Material Command. Before joining the civilian ranks, Mr. Martinez served in the U.S. Army (active duty and reserves) from 1991 through 1998. During his military career, he had several deployments, one to the Middle East. Mr. Martinez joined NASA in 2002 as a Contract Specialist.

As an acquisition professional, Mr. Martinez has received numerous honors and awards, a testament to his professional excellence. 2005 he was recognized as the Kennedy Procurement Office Contract Specialist of the Year. He has also received the NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal, Certificate of Appreciation, KSC Diversity and Equal Opportunity Award, and Superior/Distinguish Performance Award, further underscoring his outstanding contributions to the Agency.

Mr. Martinez graduated from the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico in 1994 with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management. He also possess the Federal Acquisition Certificate in Contracting (Professional) The FAC-C Professional Certification.

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**Mr. Chip W. Bishop III**  
Deputy Chief Counsel  
SBA Office of Advocacy

Mr. Chip Bishop is the Deputy Chief Counsel for the Office of Advocacy. Deputy Chief Counsel Bishop has over a decade of experience in federal service, having last served as chief economist and economics unit chief at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Prior to his service at ICE, he worked at the U.S. Department of Transportation as a senior economist and took details at the U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

Besides his tenure in the federal government, Bishop has worked at think tanks, in a manufacturing warehouse, and at small businesses in the U.S. and Europe.

Bishop holds an M.A. in Economics from George Mason University, a B.A. in Economics, Communication, and International Political Economy from Carthage College, and an A.A. from College of DuPage.

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## List of Speakers *cont.*



### **Ms. Dianna Seaborn**

Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Capital Access  
U.S. Small Business Administration

Growing up in a family of small business owners, Dianna has devoted a 40-year career to investing in and lending to America's small businesses.

Her private sector commercial finance and active participation in all of SBA's business loan programs included starting and growing several of SBA's largest lending partners and leveraged investment participants, and managing production and portfolios of more than \$40 billion in assets.

Dianna currently oversees the 7(a), 504, and Microloan Development and Policy as well in SBA's Office of Capital Access which supports \$45 billion +/- in lending that creates and retains over 700,000 jobs per annum.



### **Ms. Amber M. Paul, PhD**

Assistant Professor of Aerospace Physiology and Immunology  
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Ms. Amber M. Paul, PhD, completed her postdoctoral training at NASA Ames Research Center as a Universities Space Research Association (USRA) fellow and is currently a Blue Marble Space Institute of Science Scientist and Assistant Professor at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Wessel Fellow (21'-24').

Dr. Paul's research focuses on immunity and neuroendocrine crosstalk in extreme environmental conditions. She is interested in how physiological stress in both acute and chronic settings influence immunity.

Her goal is to identify signaling pathways involved and develop countermeasures that can circumvent these impacts. Dr. Paul's research is in part supported by NASA's Human Research Program and the NASA Florida Space Grant Consortium.

She is the Director of the Omics Lab for Health and Human Performance at Embry-Riddle, Co-Chair of the Open Science for Life in Space (OSDR) Animal working group, Board member of the American Society for Gravitational and Space Research (ASGSR), and Co-I of the Center for Science, Technology, and Advanced Research in Space (C-STARS).



### **Ms. Holly Miller, PhD**

Federal Liaison  
NASA Office of STEM Engagement (OSTEM)

Dr. Holly Miller serves as the federal liaison for the Office of STEM Engagement at NASA Headquarters. She supports international events for internships at NASA and collaborates with federal agencies to promote STEM engagement. Prior to her work at NASA, Dr. Miller was a senior advisor at the Institute of Education Sciences-the research branch of the US Department of Education. Dr. Miller completed an Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator fellowship. She served in the US Senate in Senator Jacky Rosen's office, working on policy and projects that promote success in STEM education.

Prior to serving as an Einstein Fellow on Capitol Hill, Dr. Holly Miller served as a STEM teacher for 12 years, teaching high ability students while serving as the school's high ability and science fair coordinator.

Holly has a B.S. in Psychological Science and Social Work, a M.A. in Teaching from Marian University, a M.S.W. in Clinical Social Work from Boston University, and completed her Ph.D. in STEM Curriculum and Instruction at Texas Tech University.

Holly has been recognized and awarded for innovative STEM teaching. These awards include the 2020 Connections Award for Exemplary Teaching from the School Science and Mathematics Association, the International STEM Education Association's STEM Champion Award, The 2017-2018 Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science, the 2020 Indiana Teacher of the Year, the 2019-2020 National STEM Scholar Award, the 2016 Sand Creek Elementary Teacher of the Year, and the 2020 Indiana University Armstrong Educator Award.

## List of Speakers *cont.*



### **Mr. Ryon Stewart**

Acting Program Manager  
NASA Center of Excellence for Collaborative Innovation (CoECI)

Mr. Ryon Stewart serves as the acting Program Manager for NASA's Center of Excellence for Collaborative Innovation (CoECI), working to increase the use of open innovation tools at NASA and enhance the utilization of crowdsourcing by NASA and much of the federal government.

Ryon has an Aeronautics and Astronautics Engineering degree from the University of Washington and has worked at NASA's Johnson Space Center since 2008.

He spent the first two years as a Co-op for mission operations facilities, engineering GN&C, and engineering robotics. For eight years, he worked full time in ISS Flight Operations as an Attitude Determination and Control Officer (ADCO) flight controller and instructor. In this role, he supported more than 2,200 hours of real time execution supporting activities from

visiting vehicle dockings, undockings, reboosts, etc. He also worked as an instructor teaching flight controllers, instructors, and astronauts about the ISS motion control system and soft skills required for the job.

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### **Mr. Anthony Briggs**

Small Business Program Manager  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Mr. Anthony Briggs joined the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in 2007, supporting the agency's quarter-billion-dollar acquisition program and managing several of its largest and most complex procurements. He later transitioned to the NRC's Small Business Program as a Small Business Specialist and was promoted to Program Manager in 2012, where he was tasked with building infrastructure and developing procedures to maximize contracting opportunities for small businesses.

Under his leadership, the NRC exceeded all five small business prime contracting goals for the first time in fiscal year (FY) 2012, earned its first-ever Small Business Administration Scorecard grade of "A+" for FY 2016, and has maintained an "A" or higher for 12 consecutive years.

Mr. Briggs also facilitated the largest small business set-aside in NRC history, launched the agency's first nationwide small business outreach and matchmaking event, developed a business intelligence tool to help firms identify prime and subcontracting opportunities, and spearheaded creation of the Entrepreneurial Engagement Hub that serves as the NRC's one-stop shop for regulatory assistance, contract opportunities, and its manufacturing initiative.

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### **Mr. John Hale III**

Chief Executive Officer  
The Cornerstone Group

Mr. John Hale is the CEO of The Cornerstone Group LLC, a consultancy dedicated to helping CEOs scale and grow their companies through its signature C.P.R. approach—Capital, Partnerships, and Revenue. He brings a wealth of leadership experience, having served as the OSDDBU Director at the U.S. Department of Energy, where he held Q-level clearance and spearheaded a transformation of the Department's small business program.

Under his leadership, DOE secured an additional \$1.2 billion in small business prime contracts, raising the agency's small business scorecard from an "F" to consecutive "A" ratings.

With a proven track record in both the public and private sectors, John has led the successful restructuring and turnaround of multiple upper middle-market companies across diverse industries. His career also includes commercial banking, where he served as a Commercial Loan Officer with Fifth Third Bank and Comerica Bank.

In addition to his executive work, John serves on the boards of Southern Bancorp, Inc. and the Private Directors Association. Outside of business, he is an avid University of Michigan football and Detroit professional sports fan, and he enjoys a good round of golf—especially when his slice is in remission.

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## List of Speakers *cont.*



**Mr. Chris Hall**  
Program Manager  
NASA Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP)

Mr. Chris Hall is a Program Manager in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP). In this role, he implements small business programs to strengthen the industrial base that supports NASA's mission to investigate the unknown in air and space, innovate for the benefit of humanity, and inspire the world through discovery.

Mr. Hall is a firm believer in the importance of building strong partnerships with small business, which reduces risk in the supply chain and is essential to NASA's ability to lead the world in space. As a leader within the NASA Small Business Program, he supports the Agency's unwavering commitment to maximizing the contributions of small businesses in NASA contracts, while creating jobs and stimulating the economy.

Prior to his current position, Mr. Hall served as the Deputy Director of the Office of Small Business Programs for the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). In more than two decades at DLA, earlier assignments included Program Manager for the Procurement Technical Assistance Program, Contract Price Analyst and Contract Specialist.

A native of Maryland, Mr. Hall received a Bachelor of Science degree in 2002 from the University of Maryland where he attended the Robert H. Smith School of Business and majored in Management Science and Statistics. In 2008, he received a Master's Degree in Management from the University of Maryland. Mr. Hall is Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act Certified in the Contracting career field.

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**Mr. Nick Dugan**  
Small Business Liaison Office  
Lockheed Martin – Space

Mr. Nick Dugan is a Small Business Liaison Officer with Lockheed Martin – Space, where he primarily supports Commercial Civil Space programs and occasionally contributes to DoD and semi-classified contracts.

He also serves as Chair of the Marshall Prime Contractors Supplier Council, based at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, and is an active member of the Johnson Prime Contractors Council at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

A Tucson, Arizona native, Nick's career path has been dynamic and diverse. After graduating from the University of Arizona, he pursued his passion for the arts, working in theatre production on Broadway in New York City. Upon returning to Tucson, he transitioned into government contracting as the Small Business Liaison Officer at the University of Arizona,

where he was mentored by respected leaders in the field, including retired NASA SBS David Brock. This experience, combined with his own background as a small business owner, fostered a deep commitment to small business advocacy.

In late 2022, Nick joined Lockheed Martin, where he works remotely from Tucson in support of the Denver office. He is actively engaged in local outreach and networking events to strengthen small business engagement in Tucson and represents Lockheed Martin at conferences and events nationwide.

Outside of his professional roles, Nick is passionate about fostering collaboration, supporting small businesses, and connecting with like-minded professionals to drive mutual growth.

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## List of Speakers *cont.*



**Mr. Armando Alves**  
Manager, Supply Chain  
Starship Thermal Hardware, SpaceX

Mr. Armando Alves is the Manager of Supply Chain – Starship Thermal Hardware, bringing over 15 years of experience leading large-scale infrastructure and engineering projects.

With a foundation as a Mechanical Production Engineer and an MBA in Business Strategy and Administration, Armando blends deep technical expertise with strong business acumen to drive operational excellence.

Throughout his career, he has successfully guided complex engineering initiatives from development through execution, with a proven ability to optimize supply chains, streamline processes, and deliver results in high-stakes environments. His leadership style emphasizes collaboration, efficiency, and innovation to ensure mission success.

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**Ms. Ann Haase**  
Program Manager  
NASA Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP)

Ms. Ann Haase began her federal service in 1989 with NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC), where she spent the past 30 plus years in procurement where she has gained a vast amount of procurement knowledge and a diverse background through supporting institutional programs in functional procurement offices to supporting flight programs and projects in the capacity of Contracting Officer, Procurement Manager, Small Business Manager, and the Assistant Division Chief for Procurement for the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES) - R Flight Project and Program Office.

She served as the Contracting Officer on numerous Source Selection Boards and has held the position of SEB Coordinator. Ms. Haase served as the Deputy Procurement Officer for the Ames Office of Procurement for two years (2021 – 2023).

Given her experience with small business programs and her deep appreciation and excitement for the NASA mission, she values the opportunity to promote and integrate small businesses into the industrial base of contractors and subcontractors that support the future of space exploration, scientific discovery, and aeronautics research.

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**Mr. Alexander Quinones**  
Central Florida Regional Director

Alexander Quiñones serves as the Central Florida Regional Director for U.S. Senator Ashley Moody, where he leads regional outreach and constituent engagement across a broad range of communities. In this role, he works closely with local governments, educational institutions, and community organizations to connect constituents with federal resources and to communicate regional priorities back to the Senator's office.

He is a graduate of the University of Central Florida with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science.

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