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**RNASA’s 2020 Stellar Awards Winners Announced**

**HOUSTON, Texas** **(October 4, 2021**) The Rotary National Award for Space Achievement (**RNASA**) Foundation is pleased to announce that 25 individuals and 6 teams have been honored for their dedication to space exploration with a RNASA Stellar Award.

While the COVID pandemic forced the RNASA Foundation to reschedule and ultimately cancel the annual space awards gala, the committee charged with organizing the Stellar Awards program remained committed to celebrating the 147 nominees in the safest way possible. A full list of all 2020 Stellar Award nominees can be found at <http://www.rnasa.org/2020files/nominees2020.html>.

Each nominee receives a **Fisher Space Pen** donated by the company. The **Fisher** **Space Pen**was originally carried by the astronauts of the Apollo moon missions and is still used on manned space flights to this day. They are precision assembled, hand tested, and guaranteed to perform underwater, at any angle including upside down, in extreme temperatures, and of course in zero gravity.

Each Stellar nominee also receives a special commemorative certificate with a United States flag that was flown aboard the SpaceX CRS-13 spacecraft, which launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida on December 15, 2017.

The 2020 Stellar Awards Evaluation Panel, **Dr. Sandra Magnus,** **Glynn Lunney**, **Kevin Chilton, Michael Coats, and David Thompson** selected the winners in 2020 based on accomplishments which have advanced U.S. space capabilities and hold the greatest promise of future capabilities. The 2020 Stellar Award winners are listed below, and can also be found here: <http://www.rnasa.org/2020files/winners2020.html>.

**2020 STELLAR AWARD WINNERS**

**EARLY CAREER**

**Gerald C. Alaniz of CACI, Inc** - Critical contributions to the success of the Seeker mission, its safe operation, and its ability to meet the accelerated schedule of an ISS X-Project.

**Brian F. Banker of NASA Johnson Space Center** - Outstanding work on SAFER and Seeker, and mentoring the next generation of propulsion engineers.

**Shannon Stiles Coggin of United Launch Alliance** - Leadership, technical accomplishments and expertise leading the United Launch Alliance (ULA) Production Operations team's installation and integration of the launch vehicle adapter that will connect Boeing's CST-100 Starliner to ULA's Atlas V rocket.

**Dylan Faherty of Aerojet Rocketdyne** - Exceptional technical knowledge in welding and outstanding technical leadership to implement a robust methodology for fracture control compliance on the Orion Program.

**Benjamin Fearn of Collins Aerospace** - Outstanding contribution to the NASA Flight Test Program for the CST Program.

**Maj. Christian M. Lewis of the United States Air Force** - Successful development of two classified, multi-billion dollar game-changing capabilities across the intelligence and defense communities that have reshaped the space industry.

**Michael A. Skeen of Lockheed Martin** - Exceptional expertise across multiple systems engineering disciplines, resulting in innovative solutions to OSIRIS-REx's sample acquisition challenges.

**2020 STELLAR AWARD WINNERS**

**MID-CAREER**

**Jennifer L. Devolites of NASA Johnson Space Center** - Outstanding leadership and dedication to the in-house design, development, testing, and flight operations of Orion's Ascent Abort 2 Crew Module and Separation Ring Project.

**Lt. Col. Brandon L. Erwin of the United States Air Force** - Outstanding contributions as a true "unsung hero" - ensuring mission success by operating behind the scenes with deep technical, contractual, and teaming skills necessary to solve the toughest problems.

**Jeremy J. Graeber of NASA Kennedy Space Center** - Exceptional performance and commitment to excellence in furthering NASAs launch capabilities and human spaceflight exploration through the Artemis mission campaign.

**Shelia D. Gray Haggard of Lockheed Martin** - Innovative system-level verification approach resulting in successful execution of eleven NASA interplanetary spacecraft.

**Lance R. Lininger of Lockheed Martin** - Outstanding technical excellence in the design, development, qualification and delivery of all of the Orion mechanisms for the successful Ascent Abort 2 flight test and the Artemis 1 and 2 Orion spacecraft.

**Troy A. McCracken of KBR** - Pioneering and leading robotics operations critical to the repair and utilization of the International Space Station.

**Ian J. Mills of NASA Johnson Space Center** - Innovation in telerobotic satellite servicing and the remote operation of International Space Station robotics.

**Dr. Chandrashekhar G. Sonwane of American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics** - Outstanding technical and leadership contributions in unmanned spaceflight, missiles, interceptors, torpedoes, and the Human Space Launch System, as well as helping the aerospace community through AIAA.

**James Stein of Oceaneering Space Systems** - Outstanding dedication, determination, performance and passion in the development of systems to support future human spaceflight programs.

**2020 STELLAR AWARD WINNERS**

**LATE CAREER**

**Daksha Chokshi of Aerojet Rocketdyne** - Exceptional leadership and contributions to variation reduction and statistical evaluations for manned and unmanned rocket propulsion hardware over a long and illustrious career.

**Eva Crawford of Jacobs** - Superior electronics fabrication, exceptional lab leadership, and invaluable mentorship throughout many space missions and projects spanning nearly 50 years.

**Dr. Dale C. Ferguson of USAF Air Force Research Laboratory** - Outstanding contributions for understanding spacecraft interactions with their environments, thereby significantly enhancing spacecraft safety, reliability, and situational awareness.

**Jeff P. Harbour of ARES Corporation** - Exceptional contributions to the development, sustainment, and maintenance of the NASA Mission Evaluation Room resulting in the highest reliability for this critical flight operations capability.

**Charles M. Lundquist of NASA Johnson Space Center** - Exceptional leadership of NASA Orion production and testing, resulting in the AA2 flight, delivery of Artemis 1 CSM for vehicle level testing, and many other accomplishments.

**Sandra A. Mossman of Lockheed Martin** - Outstanding technical and programmatic systems integration leadership resulting in successful spacecraft flight tests.

**Mayra A. Nelman of KBR** - Outstanding contributions to advancements in immunological research, including innovations to further space flight imaging capabilities by expanding accessibility and usability across multiple disciplines.

**Thomas S. Vaughn of Northrop Grumman** - Successful leadership in the casting and final assembly teams for the world's first human-rated controllable solid rocket, the Orion LAS ACM.

**Michael Withey of Oceaneering Space Systems** - Numerous superb accomplishments over a 40+ year career supporting human spaceflight programs at NASA's Johnson Space Center.

**2020 STELLAR AWARD WINNERS**

**TEAM**

**Orion Launch Abort Attitude Control Motor Qualification and Altitude Abort Flight Test Team of Northrop Grumman** - Outstanding team accomplishment in qualification and flight of the world's first human-rated controllable solid rocket, the Orion ACM. (Team Representative: Albert Drendel)

**ECOsystem Space-borne Thermal Radiometer Experiment on Space Station Team of NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory** - Outstanding technical excellence in the development and demonstration of the ECOSTRESS instrument for studying plant water dynamics on Earth from the International Space Station. (Team Representative: Dr. Simon Hook)

**Boeing Space Launch System Liquid Hydrogen Tank Structural Qualification Test Team** - Successful execution of the SLS liquid hydrogen tank structural qualification test as the largest structural test article on the SLS program. (Team Representative: Matthew Klein)

**SpaceX Demo 1 Operations & Test Team of SpaceX and NASA Kennedy Space Center** - Exceptional dedication leading to the success of the SpaceX Demonstration Mission-1 for NASA's Commercial Crew Program. (Team Representatives: Aarti Matthews (SpaceX) and Michael Lee (NASA Kennedy Space Center))

**CST-100 Starliner Internal Loads Team of The Boeing Company** - Pioneering innovative, computational processes for rapid analysis and verification of structural hardware. (Team Representative: Adam Martin)

**CST-100 Starliner Thermal Vacuum Test Team of The Boeing Company** - Outstanding multidisciplinary teamwork to execute a non-traditional test to prove anomaly mitigation and critical subsystem performance of CST-100 Starliner. (Team Representative: Dan Reynolds)

*About RNASA: The Rotary National Award for Space Achievement (RNASA) Foundation was founded by the Space Center Rotary Club of Houston, Texas in 1985 to organize and coordinate an annual event to recognize outstanding achievements in space and create greater public awareness of the benefits of space exploration. The nonprofit Foundation presents the National Space Trophy and Stellar Awards each yearSee*[*http://www.rnasa.org*](http://www.rnasa.org) *for more information*