



RNASA
ROTARY NATIONAL AWARD
FOR SPACE ACHIEVEMENT

For Immediate Release

April 29, 2025
Contact: Lindsey Cousins
Lindseyrc99@gmail.com

RNASA's 2025 Stellar Award Winners Announced

Houston, Texas (April 29, 2025). The Rotary National Award for Space Achievement (**RNASA**) Foundation honored the dedication of the space workers at the annual Space Awards Gala on Friday, April 25, 2025, by presenting the Rotary National Award for Space Achievement (RNASA) Stellar Awards.

Every year, the aerospace community anxiously awaits the announcement of the Rotary National Award for Space Achievement (RNASA) Stellar Award winners.

The 2025 Stellar Awards Evaluation Panel, **Michael Coats, Eileen Collins, Sandra Magnus, Michael Hawes, and Dr. Christopher Scolese** selected the winners based on which accomplishments have advanced U.S. space capabilities and hold the greatest promise of future capabilities.

Out of **135** nominations received, the Panel selected **23** individuals and **6** teams for recognition.

Prior to the evening's festivities, all nominees were treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of the Johnson Space Center and a luncheon at the Clear Lake Hilton. Stellar Awards Committee Chair **Rubik Sheth**, RNASA Foundation Chair **Rodolfo González**, and former Space Center Rotary President **John Branch** welcomed the nominees.

Each nominee received 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.

The Stellar Award winners were announced at the RNASA evening gala on April 25, 2025 by astronaut **Randy Bresnik** and astronaut **Kate Rubins** who presented them with engraved marble trophies. The winners in each of the four categories, Early Career, Mid Career, Late Career and Team are:

Board of Advisors

James F. Albaugh
Edward C. Aldridge
Charles F. Bolden
Dan Brandenstein
Robert D. Cabana
LeRoy E. Cain
Lisa Callahan
Donald J. Campbell
Jeffrey E. Carr
Mark E. Carreau
David Cazes
Kevin P. Chilton
Michael L. Coats
Eileen M. Collins
Brad Cothran
Richard O. Covey
Robert Crippen
Frank L. Culbertson
Ronald D. Dittmore
Charles Elachi
John W. Elton
G. Allen Flynt
James M. Free
Brian Freedman
Donald Fuqua
William H. Gerstenmaier
Gerald D. Griffin
Michael D. Griffin
John M. Grunsfeld
W. Michael Hawes
J. Milt Heflin
Cynthia Hendershot
Jorge Hernandez
Richard J. Hieb
Tommy W. Holloway
Neil B. Hutchinson
Kay Bailey Hutchison
Sandra G. Johnson
John C. Karas
Janet L. Kavandi
Joseph P. Kerwin
Eugene F. Kranz
Debbie Kropp
Robert M. Lightfoot
Randolph Lillard
Sandra H. Magnus
Todd A. May
David D. McBride
Vernon McDonald
Robert E. Meyerson
Paul Nemeth
George C. Nield
Miles O'Brien
Ellen Ochoa
William W. Parsons
Thomas B. Pickens
William F. Readdy
Kenneth S. Reightler
Harrison H. Schmitt
Christopher J. Scolese
Brewster H. Shaw
Gwynne Shotwell
Mark N. Sirangelo
William A. Staples
Charles M. Stegemöller
Richard D. Stephens
Michael Suffredini
Edward M. Swallow
David W. Thompson
William Vantine
Elizabeth Wagner
Vanessa E. Wyche



RNASA
ROTARY NATIONAL AWARD
FOR SPACE ACHIEVEMENT

2025 Stellar Award Winners

Early Career Category



L to R: Randy Bresnik (presenting), Alexis Adrian, Abigail Coleman, Rachel Gleichmann, Shelby Rode, Ronald Lee Jr., Kate Rubins (presenting). Not pictured: Jesse Cole

Alexis Adrian of Amentum - For excellent technical and leadership skills in support of the VIPER lunar rover.

Capt. Jesse J. Cole of United States Space Force - For outstanding leadership overseeing production and sustainment of a four-satellite Space Domain Awareness constellation.

Abigail B. Coleman of Aerodyne Industries - For exceptional software engineering contributions to the Mission Systems contract at JSC.

Rachel K. Gleichmann of United States Space Force - For outstanding contributions supporting seven space flight experiments that significantly enhanced the Space Force's ability to perform future missions.

Ronald G. Lee, Jr. of Booz Allen Hamilton - For successful first-ever development of a comprehensive simulation to predict dust contamination to spacecraft, crucial to the health and safety of astronauts.

Shelby Rode of Amentum - For outstanding leadership in a challenging, ever-evolving thermal vacuum chamber test environment.



RNASA
ROTARY NATIONAL AWARD
FOR SPACE ACHIEVEMENT

2025 Stellar Award Winners

Mid Career Category



L to R: Kate Rubins (presenting), Lisa Milam, Anthony Paul Shoemaker, Joseph Schuh, Andrew Williams, Lee Echerd, Pam August, Christopher Brunner, Lucie Low, Randy Bresnik (presenting). Not pictured: Alejandro Garbino

Pam A. August of NASA Johnson Space Center - For proactive leadership in multiple NASA spaceflight programs, including ISS, Moon-to-Mars, and Mars Sample Return.

Dr. Christopher W. Brunner of Northrop Grumman Corporation - For outstanding GN&C subject matter expertise in rendezvous and proximity operations for Northrop Grumman.

Lee Echerd of SpaceX - For sustained leadership, technical expertise, and unwavering commitment to the safety and success of SpaceX NASA Commercial Crew Missions.

Dr. Alejandro Garbino of GeoControl Systems, Inc. - For exceptional leadership as an EVA Research Scientist and recognized subject matter expert within the NASA community on decompression sickness.

Dr. Lucie Low of Axiom Space - For exceptional scientific innovation, leadership, and global collaboration in advancing space-based research, redefining the possibilities of scientific exploration in microgravity.

Lisa A. Milam of Leidos - For exceptional dedication in mastering the confidence to excel in achieving multiple flight controller certifications.



RNASA
ROTARY NATIONAL AWARD
FOR SPACE ACHIEVEMENT

Joseph M. Schuh of NASA Kennedy Space Center - For consistent demonstration of perseverance and determination in the course of making human spaceflight safe and successful.

Anthony Paul Shoemaker of MRI Technologies - For exceptional contributions revolutionizing NASA's digital ecosystem through groundbreaking cloud-native systems, enabling enhanced data access, operational agility, and robust mission security.

Dr. Andrew D. Williams of United States Space Force - For outstanding leadership and technical expertise directing the AFRL Space S&T portfolio as the AFRL Deputy Technology Executive Officer for Space.

2025 Stellar Award Winners

Late Career Category



L to R: Randy Bresnik (presenting), Andrew Ward, Quan Xiong, Billy Stover, Fadi Riman, Peggy Whitson, Mary Fleet, Kate Rubins (presenting). Not pictured: Steven Lipson, Kyson Nguyen

Mary L. Fleet of Lockheed Martin - For exceptional technical leadership of the Artemis I mission team of Certified Principal Engineers (CPEs) and Subject Matter Expert (SMEs) supporting Orion's first flight to the Moon and back.

Dr. Steven J. Lipson of United States Space Force - For groundbreaking discoveries that propelled the development of innovative space technologies, ensuring the nation's domination in space.



RNASA
ROTARY NATIONAL AWARD
FOR SPACE ACHIEVEMENT

Kyson Nguyen of Amentum - For superior radiation testing services in support of our Nation's Space Program.

Fadi Riman of Amentum - For lifelong dedication to making space travel safer, developing future aerospace talent, and driving achievements for our Nation's Space Program.

Billy R. Stover of NASA Kennedy Space Center - For exemplary service to NASA in effectively leading the Commercial Crew Program's Safety & Mission Assurance team for over a decade.

Andrew J. Ward of CACI International Inc. - For critical spacecraft flight software and simulation support to NASA Human Spaceflight for over 35 years.

Dr. Peggy Whitson of Axiom Space - For exceptional achievements as a standard bearer in human spaceflight as a NASA astronaut and continuing in the commercial sphere.

Dr. Quan Xiong of KBR - For exceptional dedication, innovative ideas, and technical excellence in support of the NASA Human Space Flight program for the International Space Station.

2025 Stellar Award Winners

Stellar Team Category



L to R: Kate Rubins (presenting), Kyle Holcomb (Cygnus Integration and Test Team of Northrop Grumman), Luis Saucedo (Orion Heat Shield Investigation Team of NASA Johnson Space Center), Jack Fischer (Nova-C Operations Team of Intuitive Machines), Brian Pitman (Space-Based Weather Systems Team of THE United States Space Force), Paul Duffin (Space Launch Complex 40 Certification Team of NASA Kennedy Space Center), Michael See and Tho Nguyen (Orion Environmental Test Article Team of Lockheed Martin and NASA Johnson Space Center), Randy Bresnik (presenting).



RNASA

ROTARY NATIONAL AWARD
FOR SPACE ACHIEVEMENT

Cygnus Integration and Test Team of Northrop Grumman Corporation - For outstanding teamwork and continued excellence in support of Commercial Resupply to the International Space Station.

Nova-C Operations Team of Intuitive Machines - For successful operations of the IM-1 mission including transit to the moon, landing on the moon, and operating on the surface of the moon.

Orion Environmental Test Article Team of Lockheed Martin and NASA Johnson Space Center - For extraordinary effort transforming the Artemis I Orion Crew Module into an Environmental Test Article (ETA), completing critical Qualification testing at NASA's Armstrong Test Facility to validate safety and spacecraft performance for crewed Artemis missions and providing essential data to inform spacecraft reuse.

Orion Heat Shield Investigation Team of NASA Johnson Space Center - For exceptional technical acumen and leadership throughout the heatshield char loss investigation following the Artemis 1 mission.

Space-Based Weather Systems Team of United States Space Force - For outstanding leadership of a successful launch and post-launch system checkout of \$525M next generation operational weather system and \$10M tech demo to lay path to future architecture.

Space Launch Complex 40 (SLC-40) Certification Team of NASA Kennedy Space Center - For significant contributions to the Commercial Crew Program's crewed launch capabilities with certification of Space Launch Complex 40 (SLC-40).

Visit <http://www.rnasa.org/photos.html> for images from the event.

The Rotary National Award for Space Achievement (RNASA) Foundation's black-tie Gala on April 25, 2025, was recorded live, in its entirety, by Space City Films and is accessible on the website's agenda page, www.rnasa.org/agenda.html.