

NASA WEST VIRGINIA SPACE GRANT CONSORTIUM

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Polyhedron Learning Media, Inc.

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For additional information on our programs,
please contact our office or visit

WVSpaceGrant.org



West Virginia Space Grant Consortium

Dedicated to building research
infrastructure and the promotion of
Science, Technology,
Engineering and Math (STEM)
education in West Virginia

WVSpaceGrant.org



Objectives

The West Virginia Space Grant Consortium (WVSGC or Consortium) is a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) sponsored organization established in August 1991. It is comprised of 12 West Virginia (WV) academic institutions and 8 corporate and scientific partners. It is dedicated to building research infrastructure and promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education in WV. The Consortium's programs focus on research, collaborations with high-technology industries, student fellowships as well as K-12, and public outreach programs. This is consistent with the strategic vision for the state's participation in the nation's current and future endeavors in science and technology.

The Consortium is housed in the Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources on the Evansdale Campus of West Virginia University (WVU) in Morgantown, WV.

Research Programs

An important component of WVSGC's mission is to help build research infrastructure at its member institutions. The Consortium is pleased to offer research grants for the four programs listed below. Each program is open to competition by faculty from all the Consortium's affiliates and each award category is judged separately based on published criteria.

Research Initiation Grants

Faculty members from all academic affiliates of the Consortium may apply for research initiation grants. The objective of this program is to stimulate NASA sponsored research at WV colleges and universities. These grants will help faculty members build long term relationships with NASA researchers, as awardees pursue research in areas of scientific interest to NASA. Projects will be reviewed by NASA personnel for technical merit and will be awarded by the Consortium based on the availability of funds.

Research Enhancement Awards

Each academic affiliate of the WVSGC receives NASA funds to be matched by non-federal sources provided by the institution. Competitive awards are made to research projects that have the maximum potential for enhancing the research capability of the faculty and the promise of long-term cooperation with NASA field centers. NASA Committees set up at each academic affiliate establish the criteria for competition and make the awards.

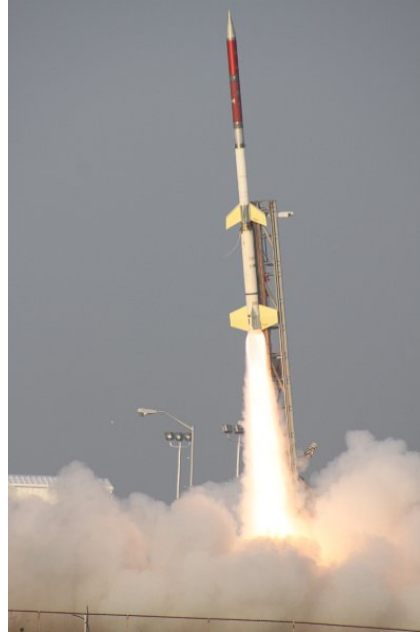
College Course Development Program

This program funds projects to develop new and innovative courses at academic affiliates of the

Consortium. Applicants are required to present a clear and feasible plan for designing and offering a new course in the STEM fields.

Joint University–Industry Research Program

WVSGC supports research within the growing high-technology sector of WV economy. The goal of this program is to foster and cultivate collaborative research between researchers at WVSGC academic affiliates, aerospace related and other high-technology companies in the state.



RockSat Program

WVSGC sponsors higher education projects that benefit the Consortium students directly and prepare them for a STEM career

Research Fellowships

The WVSGC sponsors three different fellowships: the NASA Graduate Research Fellowship; the NASA Undergraduate Research Fellowship; and the NASA Undergraduate Space Grant Fellowship. All three provide students with opportunities to work directly with Consortium faculty members in a mentor relationship, as well as the opportunity to participate in NASA and/or Consortium activities. Recipients of these fellowships must be U.S. citizens.

The **NASA Graduate Research Fellowship** is designed to provide graduate students in STEM fields with the opportunity to pursue graduate level education and work on a research project. The goal is for the students to

deepen their education and research experience, and to participate directly in NASA activities.

The **NASA Undergraduate Research Fellowship** is established to encourage some of WV's brightest students to pursue a college education in STEM fields in their home state, and to provide them with an opportunity to develop connections with NASA activities early in their careers. Criteria for selection include the student's academic record, extracurricular achievements, soundness and technical merit of the proposed research.

The **NASA Undergraduate Space Grant Research Fellowship** offers support to students pursuing degrees in STEM fields and gives them an opportunity to participate in a variety of Consortium activities. The amount awarded varies for each institution. Space Grant Scholars are selected by NASA Committees set up at each academic affiliate.

K-12, Extension and Public Outreach Programs

K-12 Professional & Curriculum Development Program

One of the goals of the Consortium is to enhance the interests and enthusiasm of students in science, engineering, and space-related disciplines. To achieve this goal, the Consortium invites organizations and qualified individuals to design and implement outreach projects in the science area for each academic year. Projects could include classroom-based activities or professional development opportunities for teachers. Awards are made for a one-year period and criteria for selection of these projects, among others, will include: long-term viability of the activity, depth and breadth of impact on student, and the degree of adherence with the state's STEM standards and reform initiatives. Inclusion of plans and special effort to bring in minorities and women to actively participate and benefit from the project will be considered a plus and is highly encouraged.

Extension and Public Outreach Program

The Consortium's vision is to involve the public in the excitement of scientific discovery, emphasizing the importance of STEM education and bringing the Vision for Space Exploration to the grassroots. This program provides funds to develop new and innovative outreach programs in WV which in turn promote STEM literacy and awareness of NASA's mission. Examples of such programs include: conferences that promote the understanding, education, development, and utilization of space; seminars or training sessions that encourage interdisciplinary training and research in aerospace-related fields; or informal education activities for the general public or student groups (e.g., scout groups or astronomy clubs).