WV High Altitude Balloon Mission – Part of NEBP

- Trinity Christian School (TCS) and West Virginia Space Grant Consortium (WVSGC) has been selected as part of the NASA Nation-wide Eclipse Balloon (NEBP) Project to build, launch, and operate stratospheric balloons during the 2023 and 2024 solar eclipses
- Mission Launch
 - Annular Eclipse October 14, 2023
 - Total Solar Eclipse April 8, 2024
- Overarching Goal: Design, develop, test, deploy, and recover stratospheric ballooning systems.
- Team will fly balloon platforms lifting 12 pounds of studentdesigned and built payloads to ~100,000 feet, streaming live video and collecting critical data
- Project Web Site:
 - <u>https://www.wvspacegrant.org/national-eclipse-ballooning-project/</u>
- Leads:
 - Marcus Fisher (mfisher@tcswv.org)
 - Candy Cordwell (Candy.Cordwell@mail.wvu.edu)



Annular Eclipse: October 14, 2023 Time of peak obscuration at location 🛑 : 16:32:49 UTC

Total Eclipse: April 8, 2024 Time of eclipse totality at location -: 19:00:15 UTC

WV NEBP: Mission Concept and Activities

- Develop High Altitude Balloon Systems and Ground Stations that provide real-time video of solar eclipses to NASA websites
- Conduct monthly lunch and learns broadcasted across state
- Conduct state-wide challenge for WV's mission logo
- Conduct state-wide initiative to have public submit their names to fly on board
- Conduct outreach across the state regarding HAB and eclipse science
- Develop High School engineering class in cybersecurity and HAB
- Develop University class in systems engineering with HAB as project
- Develop System model and software-only simulation of HAB system
- Recruit schools across WV to participate:
 - Participation can be in various ways (i.e., outreach, data analysis, payload development)

Opportunities for Groups and Schools to Participate:

- October 2023 Eclipse Flight
 - One Payload is available to be built
 - Second flight system 6 payload opportunities
- April 2024 Eclipse Flight
 - One Payload is available to be built
 - Second flight system 6 payload opportunities
- Initiatives:
 - Offer High School class in computer engineering 2023-2024 academic year
 - Electronics, Arduino, Linux, Raspberry Pi, Pi and Electronics Material will be provided along with some hardware
 - Summer Workshop at Trinity Christian School (June 26-30, 2023)
 - Participate in monthly lunch & learns
 - Explore Amazon Ground Services to investigate its use as a ground station
 - Conduct outreach across the state (e.g., Balloon projects, parachute projects, Arduinos, etc.)
 - Data Analysis on post flight data (e.g., data sciences class and/or machine learning class)
 - Design Mission Logo
- Payload Ideas:
 - Basic weather station package (e.g., middle school team)
 - Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated code
 - Image processing investigations and AI/ML
 - Quantum Experiment
 - Near Infrared Camera
 - Glider that returns to launch site
 - Long duration flight
 - Electron Density
 - Active attitude control and GN&C