



NASA West Virginia Space Grant Consortium Summer 2023 Highlights



Plant the Moon Challenge Promoted at “Try This WV” Youth Summit



The Try This WV 2023 Conference that included its first-ever Youth Summit hit a homerun. The 2023 conference held June 17-19, on the campus of West Virginia Wesleyan achieved its goals of getting youth engaged in healthy activities,



fostering youth leadership skills, offering creative approaches to address health issues, and inspiring the youth who attended to want to return next year for more. A variety of physical activities such as drills demonstrated by the West Liberty Fencing Club, paddleboarding, chess, and aerial yoga were offered in between, before, and after 25 different hands-on educational development break-out sessions. Dr. Laurie Ruberg represented the NASA West Virginia Space Grant Consortium at the Youth Summit--setting up an exhibit booth at the conference and leading a hands-on hydroponics activity session while promoting the Plant the Moon Challenge (PTMC) project. Plant the Moon Challenge will be offered again in the spring semesters of 2024 and 2025. For more information about the PTMC contact Dr. Laurie Ruberg at lfruberg@gmail.com



The **STEAM-ulation summer Camp** at West Virginia State University took place **June 26th -30th**. The one-week program was for rising fifth-seventh grade students. The camp was designed to connect the relevance of art within science, technology, engineering, and

mathematics (STEAM) by broadening each participant's knowledge, interest level, and self-efficacy, through educational and personal experiences. Participants gained a sense of discovery about STEAM through various hands-on activities, education field trips, and interactions with professionals within the local WV community and tristate area. Please visit the WVSU CASTEM Facebook page to learn more about this and other programs here: <https://www.facebook.com/WVSUCASTEM/>



National Eclipse Balloon Project Update

Natalie Fout of Glenville State University has completed an internship with the NASA WV SGC in the summer of 2023. The internship provided her the ability to serve as the outreach coordinator and launch director for the WV Balloon Engineering Atmospheric Research (WV BEAR) program. Ms. Fout attended an engineering conference at the University of Maryland, developed outreach materials for K-12 students, and participated in an *Introduction to Balloon Engineering* course. Fout says, "I have had an incredible time this summer working with NASA W Space Grant. This program has given me the opportunity to learn so many new and exciting concepts. I had a wonderful time developing and presenting STEM lessons to students around the state. Through my internship, I have become much more confident in my abilities to try new things, be a

leader, and think outside the box. I am thankful for my time here." If anyone is interested in participating in the WV BEAR program, please contact: Candy.Cordwell@mail.wvu.edu

Congratulations 2023 NASA WV SGC Summer Interns!

**Kyleigh Anderson, Kaylee Baker, Benjamin Farley, Natalie Fout,
Christopher Jones, Jacob Krell, Brook Maxwell, Ciera Moles,
Marilyn (Elise) Shamblen**

"Using the information and techniques I have been shown over the course of this summer will be with me for a lifetime. With the hope of going into education myself, this internship has helped me realize several things when it comes to education. There is no one size fits all for learning and nothing is ever going to be perfect. We live in a highly imperfect world and that is the beauty of life as well as inspiring future generations while teaching them." Ciera Moles, WV State University, undergraduate student intern at the Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences.

Summer Internship Highlights



Summer Intern Natalie Fout (Glenville State) on an Outreach Mission demonstrating an Eclipse viewer activity.



Clay Center Leadership Speaks Highly of NASA WV SGC Summer Interns Impact

“The Clay Center education team is dedicated to high quality educational programs that serve our mission statement to inspire creativity, learning, and wonder through experiences in the arts and sciences for all people of West Virginia and the region. One of the best ways to do this is through STEAM focused camps when schools are out of session. Our weeklong summer day camps provide opportunities for children aged 4 through 14 to get out of the house, get off electronic devices, socialize with other kids, and dive into specialized topics in a wide variety of subjects that schools usually aren't able to focus on.



However, the Clay Center doesn't have the resources to fully dedicate our staff to the designing and implementing of these camps. Through the internship program with NASA WV Space Grant Consortium, we can combine the dedicated time and talent of some of West Virginia's brightest college students with the professional experience of our education team to make these camps a reality. During the summer camp programs we have 265 campers experiencing a wide variety of educational topics. These opportunities are made possible with the help of our NASA SGC interns who are able to dedicate a full-time schedule to helping prepare and run these camps. The interns themselves gain valuable teaching experiences with a wide range of age of students and subject matters.”

By Thaddeus Papke Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences, Director of Education & Visitor Experience

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPPORTUNITY FOR FUNDING

EPSCoR:

Congratulations to the Rapid Response Research (R3) two winners:

- **Kristen Miller, Ph.D.**, Professor I Department of Space Studies, American Public University System proposal entitled “Studying plant-microbe interactions using the cyanobacteria *Arthrospira Platensis*: the effects of growth in low gravity, simulated Lunar/Martian regolith, and high CO2 concentration”.
- **Hang Woon Lee, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor at WVU Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral resources proposal entitled “OrBNav - Orbiter-assisted Balloon Navigation for Venus Exploration” will focus on Examining the Relationship between Orbital Stability and On-Orbit Servicing in Cislunar Space.

Funding Available



WVSGC is pleased to provide support to Higher Education student organizations at WVSGC colleges and universities for STEM outreach activities and design competitions. This opportunity is ongoing with no application deadlines, and we will accept proposals on a rolling basis.

Student organizations may request up to \$2,000 in NASA funds to be matched 1:1 from non-federal resources. The availability of funding will run through Dec. 31, 2023. Access the application [HERE](#). For questions please email: candy.cordwell@mail.wvu.edu

Save The Dates Please!

November 3rd, 2023, 10am-12pm

*The Fall Board of Directors Meeting
(The meeting will be Virtual this fall!)*

November 28th, 2023

NASA Day at the Clay Center

Share your Story!

Please contact NASA WVSGC to share your story. We would love to feature you in the
the
Fall edition.

~Thank You~

NASA WV SGC Team

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