



NASA WEST VIRGINIA SPACE GRANT CONSORTIUM

February 2022 Highlights

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An Extension and Public Outreach Grant lead by Shepherd University faculty member Dr. Kay Dartt, was named a recipient of INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine’s 2021 Inspiring Programs in STEM Award.

Seeding Your Future Initiative (SYFI) is the realization of a dream by Dr. Jordan Mader and Dr. Sytil Murphy, Shepherd University. The program seeks to address issues of inequity in science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) career fields by sparking and maintaining the interest of young Appalachian learners, specifically those from marginalized communities and underrepresented groups. The initiative does so through two components: an annual conference for middle school-aged girls and a workshop series for high schoolers. The day-long conference provides positive role models, including a panel of successful women in STEAM related professions and female workshop presenters, as well as hands-on laboratory experiences and STEAM workshops

“Seeding Your Future is introducing young women to the intricacies and joys of science that they might not get elsewhere,” said Dr. Robert Warburton, dean, College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

You can read the full release [here](#).



Members of Shepherd University's Seeding Your Future Initiative create sculptures for a unique project that merges art with physics.



Attendees to the West Virginia University women’s basketball game on January 29, 2022, were able to learn about many different backgrounds and cultures as part of the annual “**I Belong**” Day. A collaborative effort between the WVU Athletics Department, the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and WVU Student Engagement and Leadership, “I Belong” is a celebration of diversity and inclusion in Morgantown. More than 30 community and student organizations were set up for a pregame fair on the concourse with activities and giveaways. The NASA WV Space Grant Consortium outreach team met with students and families and shared information regarding our program and how to be included and involved with NASA.

pictured left– Savannah Toney, WVU student/NASA WVSGC student fellow with WVU President, Dr. Gordon Gee

Student Testimonials

Question: How did participation in the fellowship programs sponsored by WVSGC impact your education and life?



“Participating in NASA WVSGC programs helped me develop skills in research, data analysis, programming, public speaking, and many more areas. My experience with NASA WVSGC programs not only benefitted me personally but I believe also played a key role in helping me secure my dream job as a Scientific Data Analyst at the Green Bank Observatory, where I will get to help support the amazing research and instrumentation work at the facility. (Maria White, 2019 NASA/WVSG Internship-JPL, 2020 WV Space Grant Undergraduate Fellowship-Marshall University” elliwhite1420@gmail.com

“It gave me opportunity to do research beyond the classroom to give me a better perspective on security can be applied to various systems. (Jacqueline Brown, 2020 NASA/WVSG Affiliate Fellowship-Marshall University” brown1062@marshall.edu

Announcements

- The latest Request for Proposals (RFPs) for the 2022-2023 cycle have been announced and are posted on the WVSGC website. The RFP with detailed information on eligibility requirements, timeline, the application process, and application questions can be accessed [here](#). If you are a researcher, educator, or student, please consider applying! All of our applications are submitted electronically and due in mid- March. Please encourage your students and faculty to apply
- The WVU EPSCoR R3 science team will run a **HackWeek** during summer 2022 on Fault Diagnosis for Safety-Critical Autonomous Systems. The program will run June 12- 17, 2022, at West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV. Teams will be working with WVU faculty and technical experts from the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center to serve as mentors. Faculty interested in participating should send an email to Ms. Kisstaman Epps, kdepps@mail.wvu.edu, and indicate the names of students, majors, and current student academic level they would like to have on their team, along with contact emails for all proposed participants. Faculty-led groups are preferred, but student teams organized by a faculty mentor will also be considered. If requested, NASA WV Space Grant will help cover travel costs for a faculty and student team to participate in this project. For more information on the project, contact this office or the Science I Piyush Mehta, Piyush.mehta@mail.wvu.edu



Save the date

The Spring Board of Directors meeting will be held Friday evening, April 22, 2022, and Saturday, April 23, 2022, at the

Embassy Suites by Hilton, in Charleston, WV.
Please RSVP to Ms. Kisstaman Epps.

Share your Story!

Contact NASA WVSGC to share your story and keep us updated on events.
We would love to feature you in our next issue!

Upcoming events:

- **West Virginia Council of Teachers of Mathematics** will hold their annual conference at Stonewall Jackson Resort on March 18-19, 2022! - [WVCTM Home Page](#)
- NASA Day at the Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences will be held on April 6, 2022. If you know of any faculty members or students who would like to staff a booth at the event, don't hesitate to contact Ms. Epps. kdepps@mail.wvu.edu

NASA WVSGC

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