

# NASA WEST VIRGINIA SPACE GRANT CONSORTIUM



November 2021 Highlights

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NASA WV Space Grant Consortium and the NASA WV EPSCoR announces new staff member Ms. Kisstaman Epps as the Senior Executive Assistant/Outreach Coordinator. Ms. Epps is a native of Pittsburgh, PA. Among other talents, Kisstaman brings 11 years of marketing and management experience and 13 years of higher education experience. She previously served as a Communication Specialist at West Virginia State University, where she became exposed to the profound impacts of programs like the NASA Space Grant Consortium and EPSCoR. Ms. Epps earned her BA degree at West Virginia University and will graduate in December with a MA in Communication Studies/Corporate and Organizational Communication. She has also served in several administrative roles while at WVU, including the WVU Division of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, the Reed College, and Residence Life. Ms. Epps states, "I am humbled and excited regarding the opportunity to work with and represent NASA WV Space Grant Consortium and EPSCoR."

## WV SPOT is Available!

It's not too late to invite the Science Public Outreach Team (SPOT) of trained undergraduate role-models to K-12 classrooms before the new year! We would like to request that you share this opportunity with your faculty and across your networks. This is a program to engage students with quality presentations and activities and introduce K-12 students to the countless STEM opportunities available to them right here in West Virginia! Find out more by visiting the SPOT website: [www.wvspot.org](http://www.wvspot.org) and fill out an [online request](#) today!

- *Climate Change in the Mountain State* is the newest presentation. It discusses how global changes will affect West Virginia climate and gives audiences the tools and information needed to start a conversation and take action in their own communities.
- *The Star of Our World* introduces students to research conducted by WV scientists at WVU. It engages young audiences by developing understanding of the connection between The Earth and The Sun and older audiences with concepts like fusion.
- *The Invisible Universe 2.0* is the most popular presentation for middle and high school audiences. It shows students the incredible instruments at Green Bank Observatory, focusing on radio astronomy and detailing new discoveries by West Virginia students and professors (ex: through the [Pulsar Search Collaboratory](#)).
- *Water: The Source of Life* focuses on West Virginia's water resources and invites students to be stewards of our environment (ex: joining [Save Our Streams](#)). Check out [our commercial](#)!

If you have any questions, Email [spot.wv@gmail.com](mailto:spot.wv@gmail.com)

## Student Testimonials

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



*"Participation in the WV Space Grant allowed me to focus on research during my career as an undergraduate at Marshall University. As a result of the work I performed while funded by the Space Grant, I was accepted into a doctoral program at the University of Kentucky, which I will be completing this year. I hope to continue to contribute to science by teaching college and graduate students." (Lydia Hager - on 03/29/21, 2015 WVSGC Undergraduate Fellowship, University of Kentucky - Graduate Research Assistant)*

*"My participation in the West Virginia Space Grant opened my eyes to real upper-level undergraduate research. I have since heavily participated in the interdisciplinary scientific honorary for undergraduates, Chi Beta Phi. I have a newfound passion for aerospace and mathematics that previously was simply a spark waiting for ignition." (Jacob Petry - on 11/30/20, 2020 NASA/WVSG Affiliate Fellowship, 2020 WV Space Grant Affiliate Scholarship, Glenville State College - Adjunct Instructor)*



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## Announcements

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 \$2,500 in NASA funds to be matched 1:1 from non-federal resources. The availability of funding would run through Dec 31, 2022. Access the application [HERE](#). Questions? Please email: [candy.cordwell@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:candy.cordwell@mail.wvu.edu)

## NASA Day at the Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences



In collaboration with NASA IV&V Facility, the NASA WVSGC will hold its annual NASA Day at the Clay Center on April 6, 2022. This is an outreach event targeted at sixth through eighth-grade students to strengthen community relationships, inspire children to be creative and critical thinkers, and educate

learners on the value of science and technology. Potential hands-on activities will be presented by the Marshall University RCBI team, Libby and Robert Strong from the SMART Center, Ms. Hannah Payne and the CASTEM team, and others. The goal is to have a more profound impact on the students to encourage them to think about space-related topics. The theme for the 2022 event will be "When the Earth Shakes," focusing on Earth and Weather science. 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](mailto:kdepps@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 hold the date while we make further arrangements.

## 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!

## NASA WVSGC

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