

SPACE 20  
VISION 25

A decorative graphic consisting of a series of parallel diagonal stripes, transitioning from blue on the left to green on the right.

NOV 6 -8 SEATTLE

# The Recap

Title Sponsor

Integrate

# TO OUR SEDS CHAPTERS

A letter from 2021-2025 SEDS Executive Director

Since our first conference in 1983, SEDS has created the platform for student and industry connection. Given the growth of the industry, and the competition to ingenuity, our success as a space-leading nation hinges on the next generation. At SEDS, we aren't only preparing the next leaders, we become them. Everything we do is focused on pushing our mission forward, and we have achieved plenty to date. For members new and old to SEDS, here is some parting advice:

- **Engage with your community.** We represent the largest student-run organization globally. To continue being the workforce pipeline that we are, I encourage you to have your voice heard. Each one of us has value to add and the easiest way to do so is by letting us know how we are doing. That's what Council of Chapter meetings, our Discord, and our volunteering opportunities are all about.
- **Attend SpaceVision.** This conference is the only by-students, for-students space conference of this magnitude in our nation. An intellectual forum, a networking marathon, a presentation floor for your greatest ideas, a career fair with much to promise - however you think of it, it's the place to be to advance your career.
- **Give back.** For those graduating and off to the professional phase of your space journey, help those that come after you continue to explore the beyond. Support your chapter, give back to SEDS (get that tax-free benefit!), and help the organization that led you to where you are today and where you are headed in the future.

**What is next:** We are not done yet. SEDS will be at **Satellite 2026** from March 23-26 in Washington, D.C., the **International Space Development Conference 2026** from June 4-7 in Washington, D.C., and, of course, **SpaceVision 2026** on November 5th-7th in Phoenix, Arizona. See you there!

Ad Astra,

Sara Alvarado  
Executive Director Emeritus



# HIGHLIGHTS

## Celebrating 25 Years of Continuous Presence in Space

Former NASA Astronauts Dottie Metcalf-Lindenburger and Dan Tani joined former Executive Director Sara Alvarado on stage at Friday night's Astronaut Fireside Chat. Key takeaways include:

- Be comfortable presenting and breaking down complex ideas into bite-sized chunks - that's a big chunk of what astronauts have to do.
- Get as much leadership experience as possible, especially in high-stress situations.

## Development Workshops

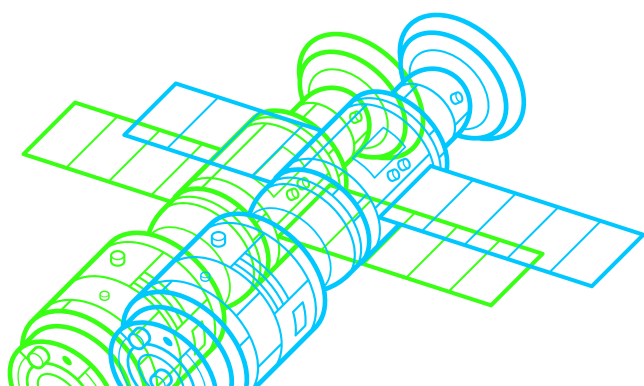
**How to Network & Pitch Yourself** Part best practices panel, part hands-on experience, SEDS members were able to hear from the top connectors in our industry on how they create opportunity for growing their networking and making meaningful connections wherever they go.

**Business Pitch Practicum** For the chapters that stepped up to the challenge, this workshop laid the groundwork for the business pitch competition, including pitch delivery, answering hard questions, and building a well thought out business plan.

**Cocoa and Connections Sponsored by iSpace** Outside of the around the clock networking happening at SpaceVision, members attended this session focused on connecting them with the alumni in the area and speakers at the event. Attendees were able to socialize over a sweet treat in this morning session ahead of the career fair.

## Creating Space: A Guided Sound Bath and Mindfulness Practice

Based on the outstanding feedback the planning committee received on our Mental Health in Space session at SpaceVision 2024, this guided meditation practice served as a reconnection with ourselves and with our inner purpose.



# HIGHLIGHTS CONT.



## LEADERSHIP KEYNOTES

SpaceVision 2025 got off to an incredible start with opening keynote speaker John Conafay, co-founder of Integrate and fellow SEDS alumnus. John has been in our corner from the beginning, and his presence on stage made that clear when he shared the highs and lows of his career. Focused on the importance of authenticity, passion, and hard work, his opening remarks set the perfect tone for everything that followed.

Our morning and evening star-studded keynotes - Sarah Knight, Lori Garver, and Mike Gold- took students on a journey through the full arc of space exploration.



Sarah's talk on the Blue Origin New Glen program showed the behind the scenes of astronaut training and what it takes to prepare for space. She shared insight on what Blue Origin looks for in the future space explorer and gave helpful advice for those interested in joining the cutting-edge work there.

Lori reflected on the policy and decisions that laid the foundation for the modern space industry, honoring the bold vision while highlighting the rapid advancements and growing commercial space sector that still has plenty of challenges to overcome.



Mike's closing keynote looked ahead to an exciting future — one filled with lunar bases, Mars missions, and beyond. He touched on the importance of the Artemis Accords and opportunities for today's students to play a direct role in writing the next chapter of space exploration.

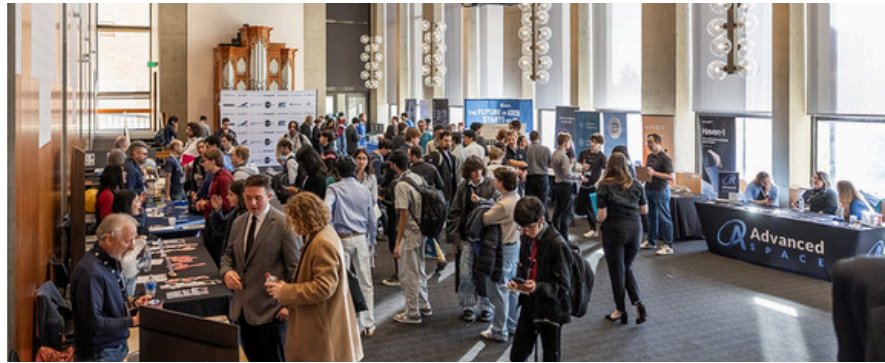


# PROGRAMMING **INSIGHTS**

## CAREER FAIR

SpaceVision's 2-day career fair offer unrivaled connection to the top organizations in space. SEDS is known for the diversity of backgrounds our members have, and the companies come prepared with a diverse set of opportunities and roles to fill. This year's career fair included:

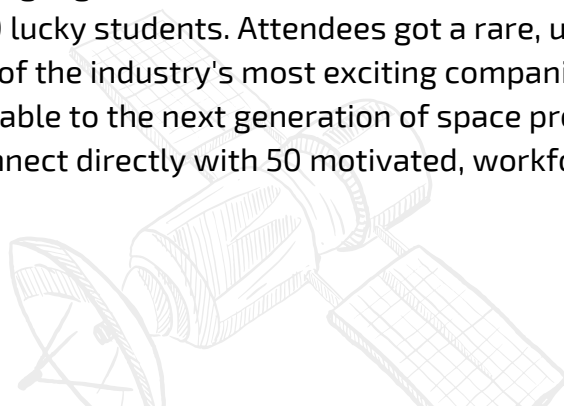
Blue Origin | Astranis | Advanced Space |  
John Hopkins University | Vast Space |  
NSS Interlune | Astrolab | AIAA | Firefly



## BLUE ORIGIN PRIVATE TOUR



One of the conference's most unforgettable highlights was an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of Blue Origin's Seattle facilities, available to 50 lucky students. Attendees got a rare, up-close look at the cutting-edge work happening inside one of the industry's most exciting companies, while learning about the career opportunities available to the next generation of space professionals. For Blue Origin, it was a unique chance to connect directly with 50 motivated, workforce-ready students in an intimate setting.



# BY THE NUMBERS

Your SEDS-USA Organizing Team is proud to be diverse and inclusive, and is majority comprised of women, ethnic minorities, and LGBTQ+ individuals.

425 Attendees — 23 States, DC and Puerto Rico

## SPACEVISION 22-24 ATTENDEE STATISTICS (AVG.)

Caucasian/White 54%

Asian/Pacific Islander 14%

Hispanic 19%

Black 3%

Male 62%

Female & Non-Binary 27%

Prefer Not to Say 13%

### 48 universities represented, including

- Arizona State University\*
- Austin Community College\*
- California Polytechnic University, Pomona\*
- Case Western Reserve University
- Duke University
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- Florida A&M University\*
- Florida Institute of Technology
- Florida International University\*
- Florida State University
- George Mason University\*
- Georgetown University
- Howard University\*
- Illinois Institute of Technology
- North Carolina State University
- Portland State University\*
- Princeton University
- Purdue University
- Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
- Rutgers University\*
- South Dakota School of Mines
- Temple University
- Texas A&M University\*
- Texas State University\*
- Ohio State University
- Tufts University
- University of California, San Diego\*
- University of Maryland\*
- University of Buffalo
- University of Arizona\*
- University of Central Florida\*
- University of Colorado Boulder
- University of Florida
- University of Michigan
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas\*
- University of New Hampshire
- University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez\*
- University of Redlands\*
- University of Southern California
- Virginia Tech University
- Western Michigan University

\*denotes **Minority-Serving Institution**, 2023 data

### 2022-2024 Demographics (Avg.)

21

Average Age

70%

of attendees  
are looking for  
an internship  
or a job.

50%

are interested  
in a job and  
are juniors or  
seniors.



# COMPETITIONS & AWARDS

## DARRELL CAIN AWARD



Theodore Courtois, SEDS-USA 2025 President was honored with the Darrell Cain Award at our Gala. He has called on stage by none other than Darrell Cain Sr. himself, who shared a sombering anecdote of the late Darrell Cain Jr. that showcased how much he cared about SEDS and about building a community that gives back. [Learn more about Theodore's achievements and look back at all those previously honored by the Darrell Cain award.](#)

## JEFF BEZOS LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Jeff Bezos Award is presented to Abby Frank of the Purdue chapter — an innovative, forward-thinking leader deeply embedded in the broader aerospace community who consistently plans for the long-term and aims for the stars.

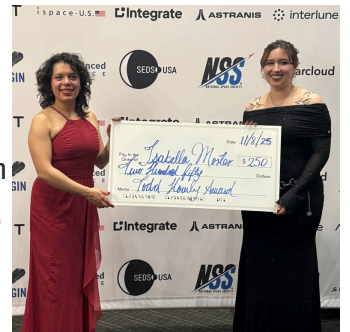
[Learn more about our student awards given out only at SpaceVision.](#)



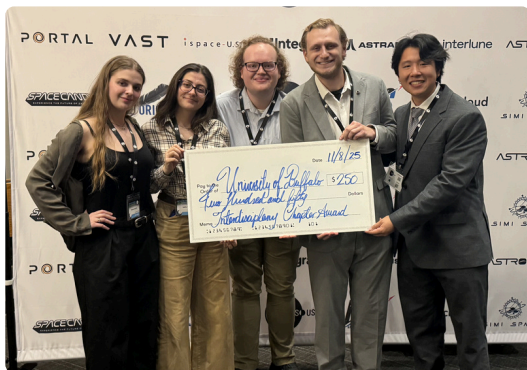
## TODD B. HAWLEY AWARD

This award honors a SEDS member who leads boldly at the local, national, and broader aerospace community level — just as Todd himself did as co-founder of SEDS, the International Space University, and the Space Generation Foundation. This year, that honor goes to Texas A&M SEDS chapter president, Isabella Morter.

[Learn more about our student awards given out only at SpaceVision.](#)



## MULTIDICIPLINARY AWARD



The Interdisciplinary Award goes to the chapter that best brings diverse fields into the space community. This year, the **University at Buffalo** earned that recognition by building intentional pathways for students in business, the arts, pharmacy, law, and engineering. Congratulations to the 2025 winners!

## GENDER DIVERSITY AWARD



The **Illinois Space Society** prioritized gender diversity across their technical leads, subteam leads, and executive board, while also championing inclusive values through outreach, mentorship, and a strong partnership with their university's Women in Aerospace program. Congratulations to ISS!



# COMPETITIONS & AWARDS CONT

## RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Students from across the country brought their most compelling work to the national stage. Representing their chapters or sharing independent projects and theses, presenters covered a remarkable range of topics. The winning projects focused on the fields of cosmology, material science, and ballooning telescopes. [You can see all winners and learn more about the competition here.](#)

**First Place**  
Duke University  
Gavin Ockert



## BUSINESS PITCH

This competition challenges students to put their entrepreneurial skills to the test over the course of the conference. Teams developed original, well-crafted business ideas centered around this year's topic - Life in Space. [To learn more about the competition, visit our competition page here.](#) Congratulations to the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner, from our Michigan University chapter.

**First Place**  
Michigan University  
Clark Zhang



## PLANETARY SUNSHADE FOUNDATION COMPETITION

This year we hosted a competition for our partners at the [Planetary Sunshade Foundation](#) to bring students the Space Development for Earth Challenge. Students were challenged to take on the role of a company bidding for a government contract to take over and operate the industrial apparatus of the Moon. Congratulations to Ozark Tech SEDS for placing first, UC Irvine SEDS in second, and SEDS FAMU-FSU third.

Winners received a cash prize and a lunar regolith sample! [Applications for the 2026 competition are open here.](#)



# SOCIAL IMPACT ADD-ONS

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters during our Spring 2025 Fundraiser, we were able to award travel scholarships to students and SEDS chapters who otherwise would not have been able to attend. Their presence enriched the conference with new perspectives, diverse voices, and the kind of energy that makes our community stronger. Since 2021, SEDS and our amazing partners have provided **over \$50,000** in student scholarships to SpaceVision- that's **over 240 students!**

## 2025 Scholarship Impact at a Glance

**28** Student  
Scholarship  
Recipients

**\$10K**

Raised in Spring  
Fundraising  
Campaign for  
scholarships.

Directly supports research  
presentations,  
competitions, and  
networking opportunities

## Company Partners

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YOUR LEADERS  
OF TOMORROW



# SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

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## Heliosphere Level



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## Karman Line Level



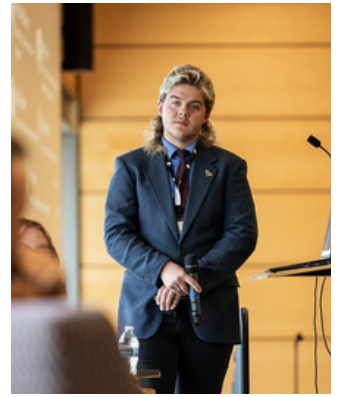
## Social Networking Events



## Partner



# Thank You To Our Volunteers



Each year, SEDS puts together the only for-students, by-students space conference in the USA. We couldn't do this without the dedicated volunteers who moderate, plan, organize, and are the boots in the ground to guarantee an amazing conference for all. These are SEDS students and alumni who want to be part of something greater.

Interested in helping put together a national conference? Visit [spacevision.org](https://spacevision.org) for the signup form.



# SEE YOU AT SPACEVISION 2026

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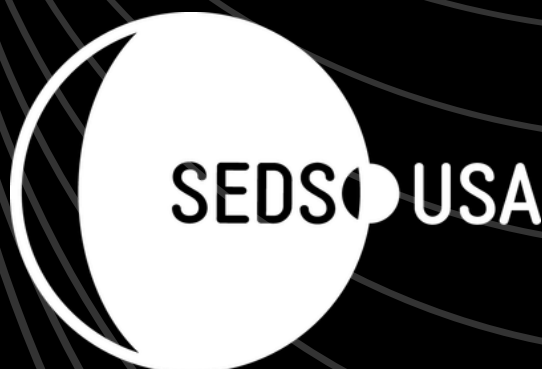
## OUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON YOU

*Interested in workign with the next generation workforce? Showcase your support as a sponsor or exhibitor at SpaceVision 2026. Contact SEDS-USA representatives to discuss partnership opportunities and options. We look forward to working together.*

**Theodore Courtois**

Executive Director

[theodore.courtois@seds.org](mailto:theodore.courtois@seds.org)



SEDS is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.