

MAKING AN IMPACT

AIAA and Challenger Center Launch New Trailblazing STEM Educator Award

The AIAA and Challenger Center have launched the Trailblazing STEM Educator Award. This annual award will celebrate K-12 teachers going above and beyond to inspire the next generation of explorers and innovators.

The award will recognize teachers who connect classroom lessons to the country's current and future plans for exploration and innovation, introduce students to STEM careers, and spark students' imagination about space exploration. Following a year of incredible challenges for educators, this year's award also will celebrate educators who continued to excite their students about STEM throughout the difficult circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Nominations are being accepted at aiaa.org/TrailblazingSTEMEducatorAward and may be submitted through 30 January 2022.

Five finalists will be selected from the nominations. Each of the finalists and their respective schools will be awarded \$5,000; each finalist also will receive free access to Challenger Center's STEM programs, a trip to Washington, DC, to be honored at the AIAA Aerospace Spotlight Awards Gala, and a special presentation ceremony at their school.

"We are excited about our collaboration with Challenger Center supporting those who are invaluable to our communities – educators. We share a commitment to strengthening the aerospace profession by inspiring the future workforce," said Dan Dumbacher, AIAA executive director. "We need a diverse and robust STEM next generation who use what they learn today to innovate and invent tomorrow. We can't wait to recognize these passionate and inspirational trailblazers who spark students' interest in STEM subjects, especially the science and engineering behind aerospace."

Even as the U.S. aerospace and defense industry leads the world in innovation, it faces challenges with the workforce: a skills gap of STEM-literate students entering the industry, a need for greater participation by women and ethnic minorities, and a growing knowledge gap from early retirements. Based on the "2021 AIAA State of the Industry Report," nearly 50% of respondents believe an increased focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion by aerospace industry employers will help increase the pipeline of skilled, competent aerospace professionals.

CONGRATULATIONS Class of 2022 AIAA Associate Fellows



AIAA Associate Fellows Induction Ceremony and Dinner

Monday, 3 January 2022

*Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego in
San Diego, California*

The Class of 2022 Associate Fellows will be officially recognized for their accomplishments in engineering or scientific work, outstanding merit, and contributions to the art, science, or technology of aeronautics or astronautics.

Join us in recognizing these exemplary professionals during the Associate Fellows Induction Ceremony and Dinner, to be held in conjunction with the 2022 AIAA SciTech Forum at the Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego on Monday evening, 3 January.

Tickets to this celebrated event are available on a first-come, first-served basis and can be purchased at aiaa.org/SciTech/registration or onsite (based on availability).

For more information about the Class of 2022, please visit aiaa.org/news/news/2021/09/27/aiaa-announces-its-class-of-2022-associate-fellows

