

An astronaut in a white spacesuit is floating in space, illuminated by a bright orange light source, possibly the sun or a planet. The background is a dark, starry space with a faint blue and purple glow. The astronaut is positioned centrally, with their body angled towards the viewer.

# ASCEND™

19-21 MAY | WASHINGTON, D.C.

21 MAY 2026

# Space Starts Here

## K-12 Outreach is the Foundation of the Future Workforce



**Mike Kincaid (moderator)**  
President & Executive Director  
Challenger Center



**Jessica Pedersen**  
Senior Director, American  
Rocketry Challenge & STEM  
Engagement  
Aerospace Industries Association



**Frank Bauer**  
Executive Director  
ARISS-USA



**Jake Williams**  
Senior Program Manager, K-12 &  
Young Professional Programs  
AIAA

FOUNDING SPONSOR



CORPORATE PARTNERS



PREMIER EVENT PARTNER

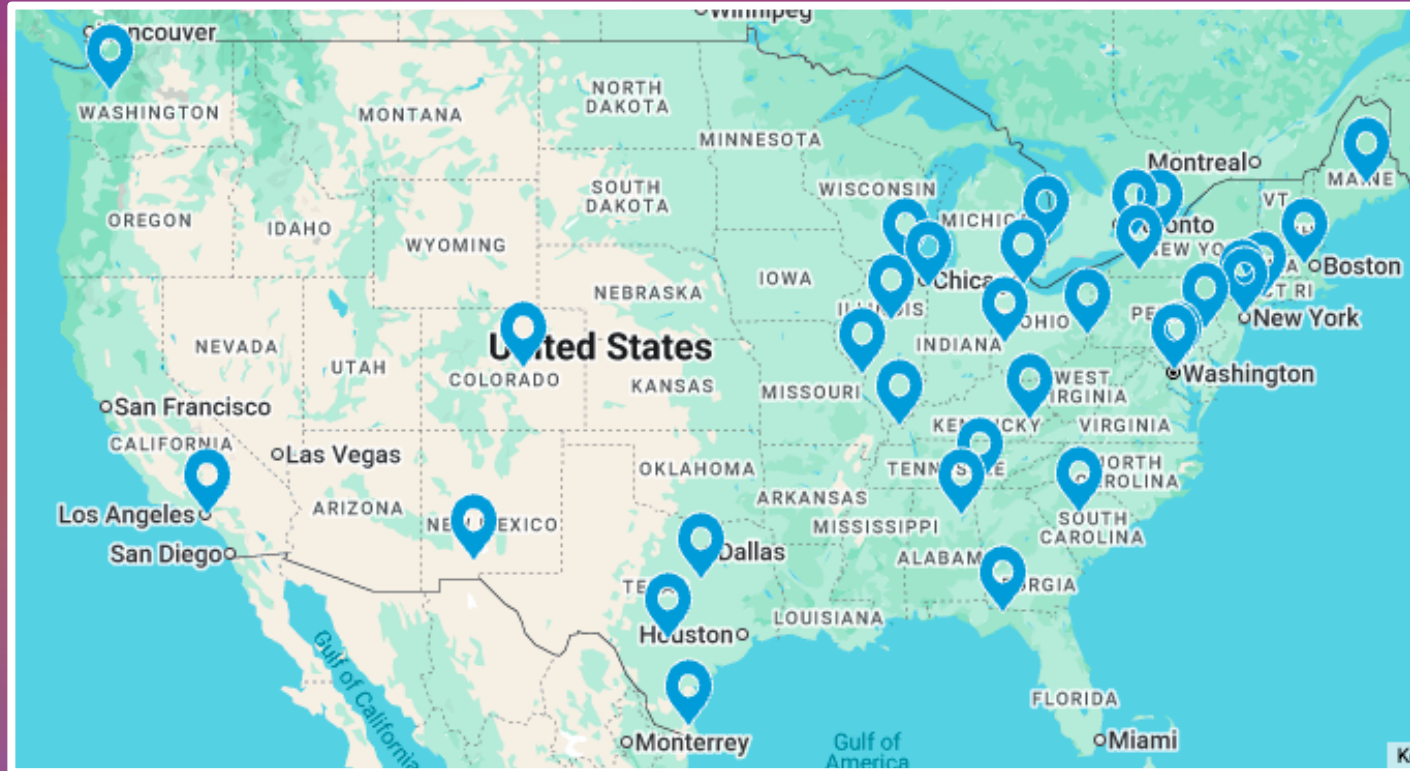


EVENT PARTNERS





# Challenger<sup>®</sup> CENTER



FOUNDING SPONSOR



CORPORATE PARTNERS



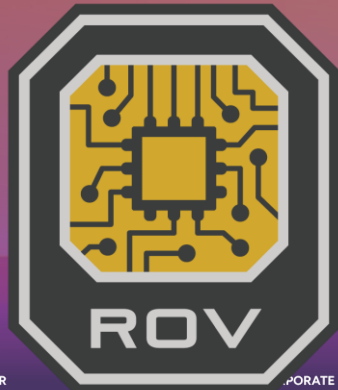
PREMIER EVENT PARTNER



EVENT PARTNERS



# ASCEND<sup>™</sup>

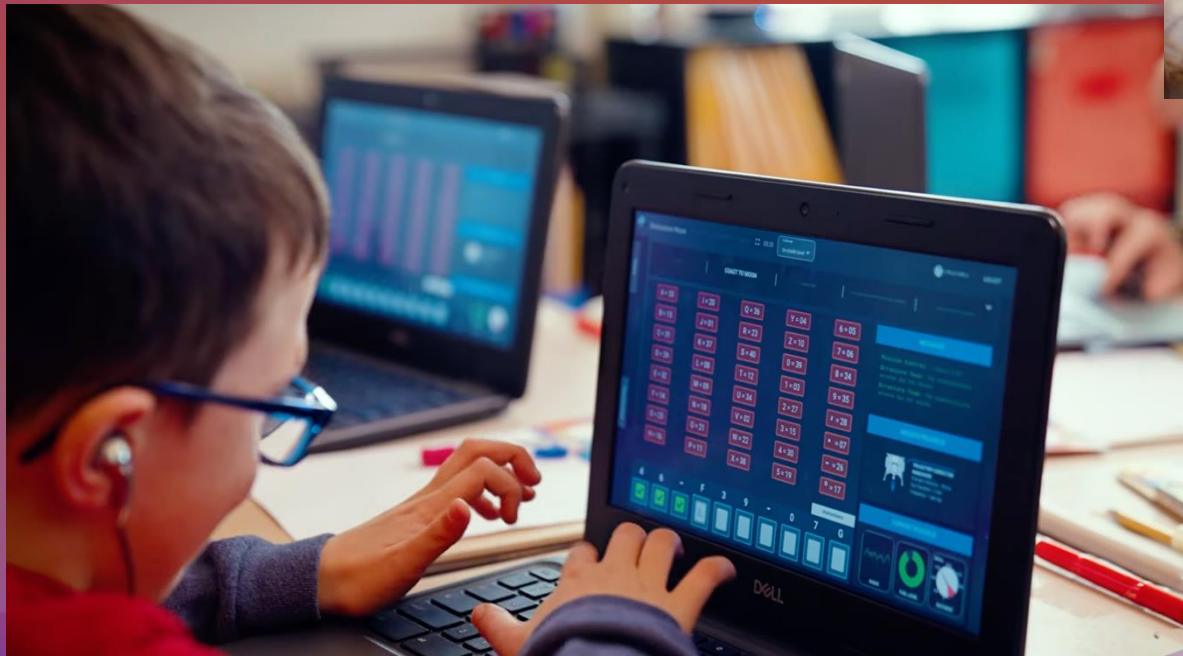


FOUNDING SPONSOR

OPERATE PARTNERS



# Satellite Challenges



FOUNDING SPONSOR



CORPORATE PARTNERS



PREMIER EVENT PARTNER



# AMERICAN ROCKETRY CHALLENGE

[American Rocketry Challenge 2025 - YouTube](#)



FOUNDING SPONSOR



CORPORATE PARTNERS



PREMIER EVENT PARTNER



EVENT PARTNERS



# ARISS: Talk to an Astronaut in Space!



- STEM/STEAM workforce development powerhouse that inspires, engages, and educates K-16 youth
- 4–6-month ARISS education experience culminates with a 10-minute amateur radio contact with the crew on board ISS
- During pre-contact preparations, students learn about ISS research, space exploration, space communications, as well as radio science & technology via amateur (ham) radio operations
- Contacts boost ISS crew morale through enriching engagements with youth, the community, and ham radio operators; serves as backup communications for ISS



# ARISS Educational Engagement Capabilities on ISS



**Astronaut Contacts  
(Voice)**



**Astronaut Contacts  
(Voice & Video)**



**Slow Scan TV-SSTV  
(Picture Downlinks)**

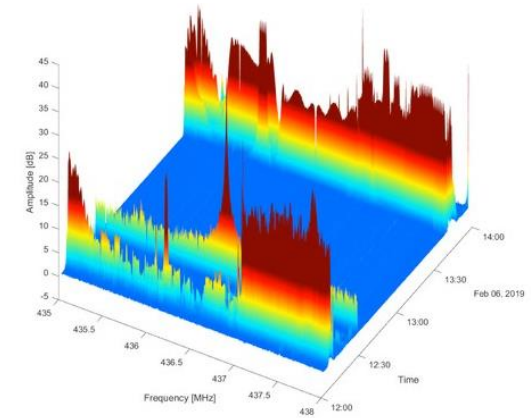
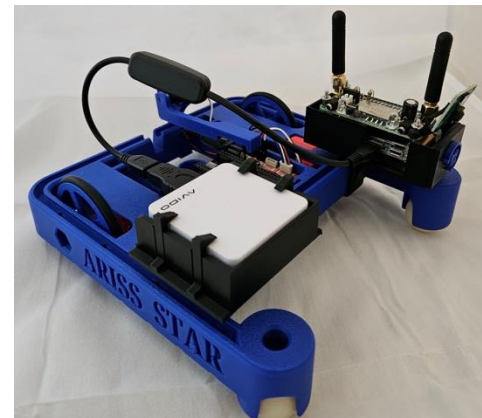


**Voice Repeater**



```

-6: `&F1 Qk/`"9{ }_5
]"8i}WD9EWK - LIVE on 437.825 MHz w/TH-D75&
I]ARISS-International Space Station=
L and 73 via ISS
QSL and 73 via ISS
EN52 IL
I]ARISS-International Space Station=
BD :Heard You via ISS in Montpelier, VA FM17es
07742.30W-73' Via Satellite 437.825
    
```





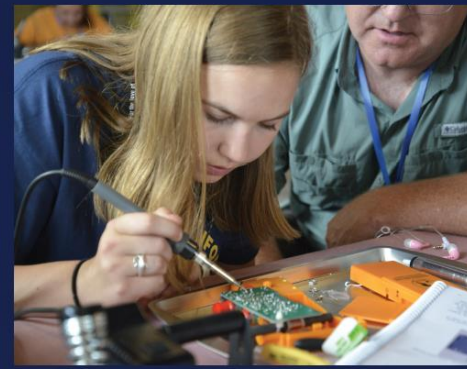
**Communication Skills**



**Life Skills**



**History**



**Science**

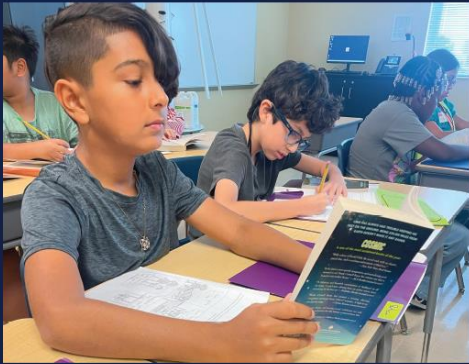


**Teamwork**

## Amateur Radio on the International Space Station



A K-16 educational experience that spans 4-6 months and allows you to integrate lessons and activities across all areas of your curriculum.



**Language Arts**



**Engineering**



**Problem Solving**



**Art**



**Math**



**Writing**



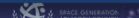
**Physical Education**

# AIAA Career Arc

A Proven Flight Path for Aerospace Professionals



FOUNDING S



# K-12 Resources



# Classroom Grants

FOUNDING SPONSOR



CORPORATE PARTNERS



PREMIER EVENT PARTNER



EVENT PARTNERS



# K-12 Resources



\$50,000 distributed to high school seniors for their college education each year

- 4 Roger W. Kahn Scholarships
- 1 AIAA and Club for the Future Resilient Student Scholarship

## Scholarships

FOUNDING SPONSOR



CORPORATE PARTNERS



PREMIER EVENT PARTNER



EVENT PARTNERS



# Trailblazing STEM Educator Award

- In partnership with Challenger Center
- \$30,000 awarded to 3 teachers/schools to fund STEM projects
- Trip to tour NASA and Blue Origin facilities in FL



FOUNDING SPONSOR



CORPORATE PARTNERS



PREMIER EVENT PARTNER



# AIAA's High School Subcommittee

Initiatives led by students include:

- **Webinars:** Host regular webinar series (Technical Committees, guidance on applying to colleges, etc.)
- **Handbook:** Developing a handbook on how HS students can run aerospace clubs in their own schools
- **Ambassadors:** Promoting STEM opportunities, resources, and scholarships locally
- **External Event Participation:** Formed teams in competitions like the Real World Design Challenge
- **Mentor Match:** Connecting HS members with Young Professionals
- **Student Conferences:** Presenting category at all 7 AIAA Regional Student Conferences
- **Officer Roles:** Providing leadership opportunities

FOUNDING SPONSOR



CORPORATE PARTNERS



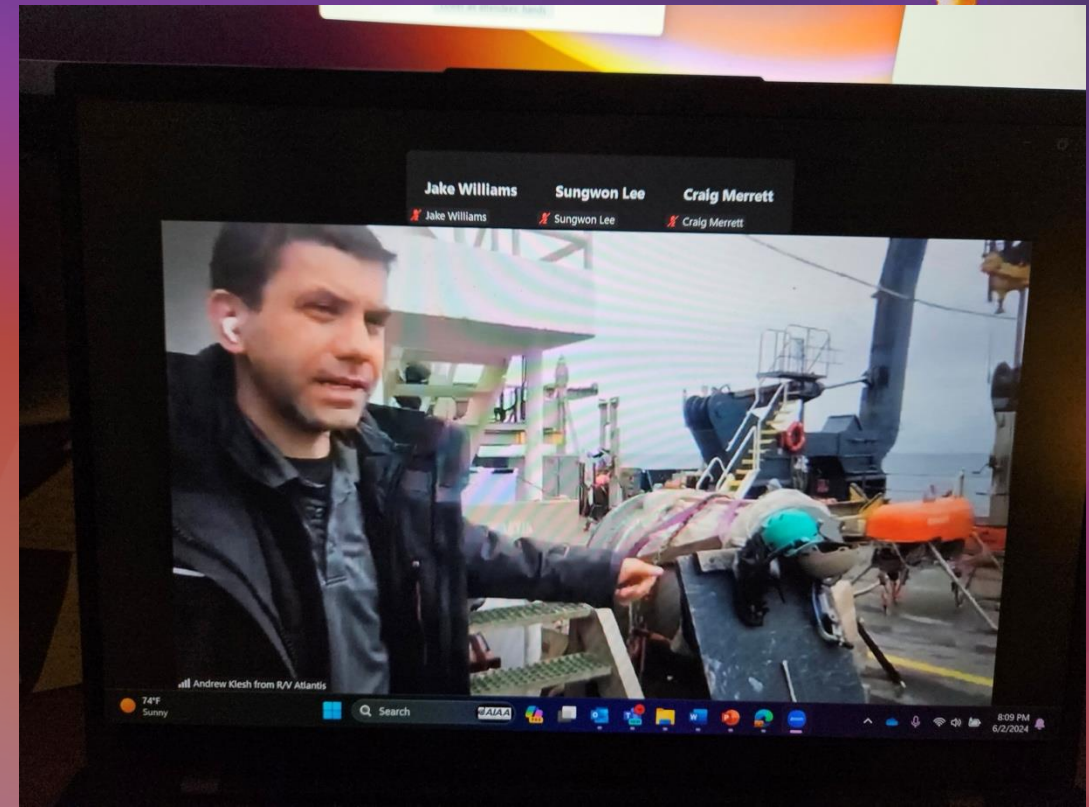
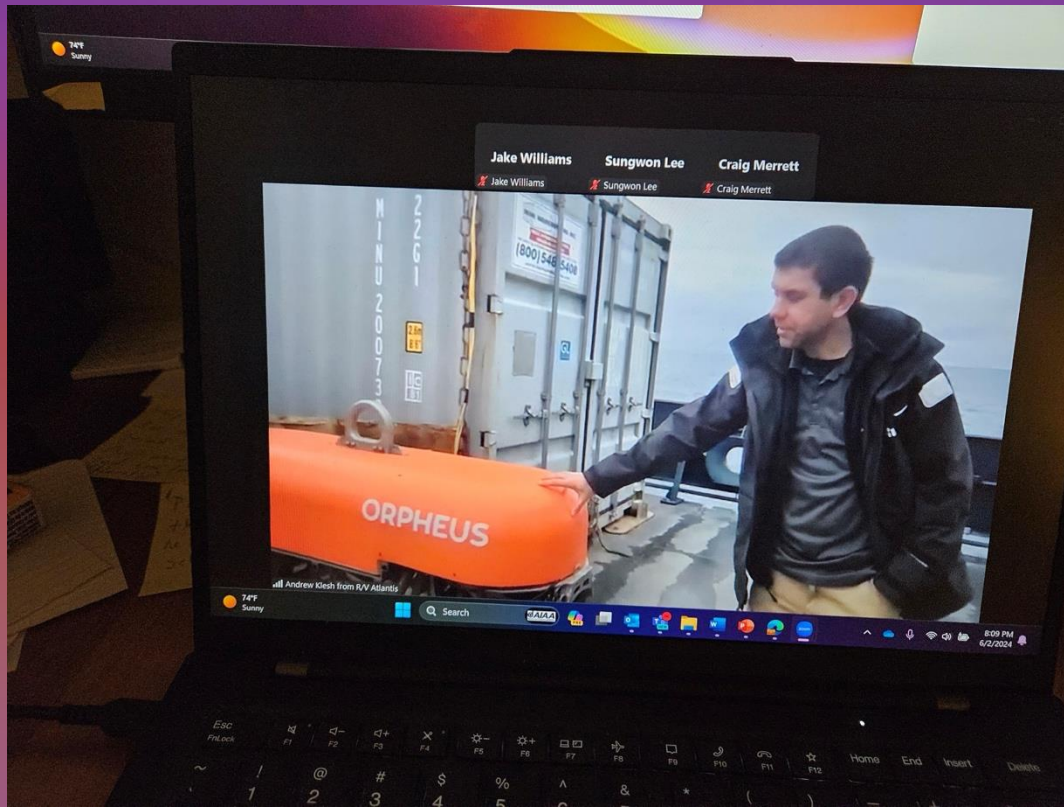
PREMIER EVENT PARTNER



EVENT PARTNERS



# K-12 Resources



## Interactive Webinars for Students

FOUNDING SPONSOR



CORPORATE PARTNERS



PREMIER EVENT PARTNER



EVENT PARTNERS





# Space Starts Here

*K–12 Outreach is the Foundation of  
the Future Workforce*

FOUNDING SPONSOR



CORPORATE PARTNERS



PREMIER EVENT PARTNER



EVENT PARTNERS



# Get the slides and more resources here!



FOUNDING SPONSOR



CORPORATE PARTNERS



PREMIER EVENT PARTNER

