What’s happening next?

Heather Thomas, an Information Technology Specialist at Johnson Space Center and a 2012 NCAS alum, will be NCAS’s next live SME presenter on Wednesday, August 4, 2021, at 6 p.m. CDT. Join us at this link.

NASA on Campus

Launch of the first ever Virtual NCAS on Campus Experience, August 2-6, 2021. Participating Community Colleges:

- Cerritos College
  Norwalk, CA
- College of the Desert
  Palm Desert, CA
- Hinds Community College-Utica
  Utica, MS
- Meridian Community College
  Meridian, MS
- Redlands Community College
  El Reno, OK

Milestones

The NCAS agency-wide team gathered (virtually) June 22-23, 2021 to discuss strategies for building the Artemis Generation through a collaborative lens. Additionally, NCAS invited three community college faculty from Drake State Community & Technical College (Alabama), Norco College (California), and Union County College (New Jersey) to participate in a community college panel. They shared current trends and characteristics of community college students. NCAS will use the information to help increase program participation and retention rates.
NCAS introduces community college students to NASA’s diverse workforce

NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars (NCAS) hosts a series of subject matter expert (SME) chats throughout the year for community college students to interact with NASA’s diverse workforce. During these chats, students learn more about NASA missions, the importance of participating in other NASA programs and building a solid network. At the end of each SME live chat, scholars often reflect on their experience and express their gratitude.

Here’s what they had to say during the Robert Hogg SME live chat held on Wednesday, June 23, 2021, at 6 p.m. CDT.

“I’m so happy. I love this. THANK YOU!!!!!!! I love this presentation.”
— Pima Community College Student

“I’ve watched these videos a million times but being talked through it by a NASA professional is crazy surreal.”
— Central Piedmont Community College Student

“This was amazing! Thank you so much for allowing us to join in! So inspiring!”
— South Plains College Student

NCAS held three virtual SME chats on June 9, June 16, and June 23, 2021, for 132 virtual NCAS on Campus Experience community college students.

Ryan Loper, a Mechanical Engineer with Opto-Mechanical Engineering Group, at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, led the SME chat on Wednesday, June 9, 2021.

A scholar let Loper know, “I have been loving all the information! It has really helped me gain a much more varied understanding of what direction to guide my education to be more aligned with the programs NASA is involved in. I couldn’t be more grateful for the ability to see a more global perspective on NASA and it’s super exciting to see the steps moving forward. This program has made me much more invested in my studies and its only around halfway through!” Click here to view the chat.


“I need to say, I’m crying…you are an amazing person, your life and everything you did and are doing is inspirational…thank you very much for sharing it with us,” said one student. Click here to view the chat.

Carlos Cruz-Arce, Post-bac Science Researcher in the Planetary Systems Laboratory, at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center, carried the SME chat on Wednesday, June 23, 2021. Here, he shared his non-traditional education and path to NASA, which greatly resonated with the community college crowd.

“Thank you for sharing this! My 8-year-old son has ADHD, and his passion is space. He is ‘taking’ this course with me, and this will be so inspiring for him.” Click here to view the chat.

Coyle Boyd, an NCAS alum, was accepted into Cal Poly San Luis Obispo’s Mechanical Engineering program. According to U.S. News & World Report, the university is ranked No. 1 in industrial engineering, No. 2 in mechanical, computer and electrical engineering, and No. 3 in civil engineering (Vaughn, 2019).

Boyd will pursue his degree beginning fall 2021 on a full-ride scholarship offered through a program at his school, Cuesta College, called ENGAGE. While he pursues his degree, he will work as a member of a design team doing AutoCAD drafting at Thoma Electric Inc., in San Luis Obispo.

Boyd participated in NCAS spring 2020 and thanks NCAS for the assistance. “Thank you NCAS for all the support both during and after my NCAS onsite and online experience.”


Megan Chan, a spring 2021 NCAS alum and a student at Skyline College, is a summer 2021 OSTEM intern at Kennedy Space Center. She recognizes NCAS led her to new and bigger opportunities. “I love NCAS, and I want to give back in any way that I can because NCAS helped me! I started my internship on June 7, and I am currently working on a project with my mentor,” Chan stated.