NCAS SNAPSHOT

NCAS IN THE NEWS

BREAKING NEWS
NCAS wins Space Flight Awareness Team Award

The Office of STEM Engagement NCAS team was recognized for their exceptional service while executing the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars Activity. The NCAS team adjusted the activity from a face-to-face format to a completely virtual offering during unprecedented circumstances. Not only was the team able to accomplish its mission, but also has paved the way for future success.

What’s happening now?
Virtual NCAS Experience

One hundred twenty-two students from 79 community colleges and 19 states will participate in the Virtual NCAS Experience Sept. 13 – 23, 2021 and speakers, Dr. Carmen Cruz and Dr. Margaret Dominguez will join NCAS as guest speakers for this session.

Dr. Carmen Cruz, a group lead in the California Office of STEM Engagement (OSTEM) at NASA’s Armstrong Flight Research Center (AFRC), will lead the subject matter expert (SME) talk on Sept. 17, 2021. Dr. Cruz will discuss her experience as a first-generation Latina student and how her years of teaching K-12 and Higher Education led her to NASA.

Dr. Margaret Dominguez, an optical engineer at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center, will present during the SME chat on Sept. 20, 2021. During this chat Dr. Dominguez will discuss her experience with NASA starting with her 2008 summer internship as well as her experience with the Roman Space Telescope (RST), where she is building the grism (grating prism) instrument, a slitless spectrograph on board the telescope which will survey emission-line galaxies when it launches in 2025.

NCAS on Campus Experience

NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars (NCAS) invites 84 students from Atlanta Metropolitan State College, Cypress College, Essex County College, Lone Star College, Norwalk College, Southwestern College, and Union County College to participate in the second NASA Career Simulation, Sept. 27–Oct. 1, 2021.

This new cohort of students assume the role of new NASA employees and engage in authentic learning with NASA and STEM workforce, content, and facilities. Before starting their “new jobs” scholars apply for positions on a team and discover which role they assume for the week.

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NCAS APPLICATION PERIOD
Sept. 1–Oct. 13, 2021

VIRTUAL NCAS #6
Sept. 13–23, 2021

NCAS ON CAMPUS
NASA CAREER SIMULATION
Sept. 27–Oct. 1, 2021
Hinds NCAS student named 2021 HBCU Scholar

Sydney Burks, a Hinds Community College student at the Utica Campus, has been honored by the White House Initiative on Historically Black College and Universities. Click here to read about Sydney’s selection for this honor.

NCAS now accepting applications

NCAS expects to recruit hundreds of community college students in the coming weeks. NCAS Virtual Experiences is currently recruiting community college students for the spring 2022 session from Sept. 1– Oct. 13, 2021. Six information sessions will take place during the NCAS fall recruitment period. During these sessions, the NCAS team hosts an hour-long virtual information session and provides an overview of the project, program eligibility, shows students how to apply, and explains the unique benefits of joining NCAS.

At the end of each session, the NCAS hosts will field questions from community college attendees. Many NCAS alumni who attended an information session before expressed how helpful it was to engage with the NCAS team at the end. “Being able to ask questions during the information session made me feel comfortable, and it gave me the confidence to apply,” one student said.

What’s happening next?
The next cohort of the NCAS Virtual Experience will take place Oct. 27–Dec. 1, 2021. During this online experience, NCAS Mission 1: Discover – NCAS Online, students learn about NASA’s missions and history via interactive online content. Students engage with NASA’s diverse workforce through a three-part subject matter expert lecture series. Eligible students receive invitations to for the spring 2022 NCAS Mission 2: Engage – Virtual NCAS.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

NCAS Alum Pedro Salazar joined “Houston We Have a Podcast” host Gary Jordan for National Internship Day. In Episode 208, recorded on June 16, 2021, NASA interns from around the country detail the various student programs at the agency that helped them land their internship opportunities. In the interview, Salazar credits his success to NCAS. “NCAS was amazing because I got to meet people from NASA and other states. I also learned about the many opportunities that NASA offers to students,” Salazar stated.

Salazar participated in NCAS in fall 2019. He recently completed his fourth internship at NASA’s Ames Research Center this summer and currently studies Aerospace Engineering at Iowa State University.

Click here to view Episode 208, “Houston We Have a Podcast” transcript. View the latest episodes of Houston We Have a Podcast at Houston We Have a Podcast | NASA.

Monica Namo, a spring 2020 NCAS alum, recently completed her summer internship at NASA’s Langley Research Center (LaRC). During her internship at LaRC, she developed a two to three week-long remote sensing training for high school and early college students.

Namo thanks NCAS for helping her reach her goals. “NCAS inspired me to shift my focus to aerospace. If it had not been for that experience, I don’t think I would have found the confidence to apply at NASA.”

Namo is currently pursuing her degree in mathematics at California State University.

TELL OTHERS ABOUT NCAS

NASA’s Minority University Research and Education Project (MUREP) engages underrepresented populations through a wide variety of initiatives. Multiyear grants are awarded to assist Minority Institution faculty and students in research of pertinent missions.

For more information about NCAS, contact the NCAS Team at JSC-NCAS@mail.nasa.gov

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