FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Astronaut Scholarship Foundation Announces the 2025 Neil Armstrong™ Award of Excellence Recipient

Orlando, FL — The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation (ASF) announced Dr. Jessica Blomberg will be the recipient of the esteemed 2025 Neil Armstrong™ Award of Excellence. The award recognizes an Astronaut Scholar alum who best exemplifies the personal character and professional achievements of the first human to walk on the Moon, Neil Armstrong. ASF will present Dr. Blomberg with her award during its Innovators Gala on Aug. 16, 2025, at the Omni Houston Hotel in Houston, Texas.

“Each year, we are reminded of the incredible journeys our Astronaut Scholars take as promising undergraduates to professionals who truly change our world,” said Curt Brown, Chairman of ASF’s Board of Directors. “Dr. Blomberg’s inspiring path from a 1996 & 1997 Astronaut Scholar to a standout leader in the biotech, medical device and pharmaceutical industries exemplifies this transformation. Dr. Blomberg represents the very best in our community, and we are proud to honor her accomplishments with the Neil Armstrong™ Award of Excellence.”

Dr. Blomberg is an industry expert in Chemistry, Manufacturing and Controls (CMC), regulatory strategy and quality systems with nearly 25 years of experience guiding pharmaceutical, biotech and cell and gene therapy companies through CMC development, regulatory approvals and product lifecycle management. As Founder and CEO of Quality CMC Consulting, LLC, she has played a critical role over the last 12 years helping companies optimize drug development plans and de-risk regulatory strategies. Dr. Blomberg’s recent work includes designing and implementing quality control strategies for Nobel Laureate David Baker’s Institute for Protein Design spin-outs supporting first-in-human studies and securing $1.1 billion in M&A transactions in 2024. Recognized as the 2020 Life Science Consultant of the Year, Dr. Blomberg co-invented multiple formulation patents and served on advisory boards for the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists NC Discussion Group and Parenteral Drug Association Southeast Chapter. She actively supports the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, where she was named a 2022 Community Impact Leader and serves as a CMC advisor to the Brain Tumor Investment Fund. To read more about Jessica’s impressive accomplishments check out our website here.

A 1996 & 1997 Astronaut Scholar, Dr. Blomberg graduated from the University of Central Florida in 1998 with an Honors Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. She earned her Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from Duke University in 2003. Throughout her career journey, she has remained committed to the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation as a Board Member since 2020, the Program Committee Chair since 2022 and a mentor to Astronaut Scholars since the start of the Mentorship Program in 2016. Dr. Blomberg has also represented ASF at industry events, served as an instructor at the 2024 Triangle University Startup Bootcamp, mentoring biotech entrepreneurs at Duke, NC State and UNC, and CMC and regulatory workshops for the NC Center for Entrepreneurial Development in 2024 and 2025

"Receiving the Neil Armstrong™ Award of Excellence is the greatest honor of my professional life,” said Dr. Blomberg. “Neil Armstrong’s courage, innovation and integrity have always inspired me, especially when navigating the complex, high-risk world of drug development. Perseverance of problem-solving is the motto that guides me – whether overcoming regulatory hurdles or supporting life-saving therapies. I share this award with every Astronaut Scholar and STEM industry professional who dares to make the impossible possible.”

The Neil Armstrong™ Award of Excellence was established in 2016 through a partnership with the Purdue Research Foundation, the Armstrong family and Jim Hays, a friend of Neil Armstrong. Intended to pay tribute

to the legacy of Armstrong and his fellow space explorers, this honor is bestowed upon an Astronaut Scholar Alum who mirrors the core values of character and professional achievement of its namesake.

About Astronaut Scholarship Foundation
The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation (ASF) is an Orlando-based, 501(c)(3) nonprofit commemorating the legacy of America's pioneering astronauts. Founded in 1984 by the six surviving Mercury 7 Astronauts, ASF partners with industry leaders, universities and individual donors to support and reward exceptional college students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Over the past 40 years, more than $10 million has been awarded to over 900 college students. ASF is a four-star rated organization by Charity Navigator.

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