

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 14, 2021

### **Astronaut Scholarship Foundation was selected to receive \$1 million from Blue Origin's Club for the Future**

**ORLANDO, Fla.** - Today, [Astronaut Scholarship Foundation](#) (ASF) was selected to receive a \$1 million grant from Blue Origin's [Club for the Future](#) to support the best and brightest scholars in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). A gift of this magnitude will help fuel the next generation of scientists and Astronauts as ASF seeks to inspire and encourage today's students.

"We were very excited that the winning bid in our recent auction has allowed us to donate \$28 million to our foundation, Club for the Future," said Bob Smith, Blue Origin CEO. "We have thoughtfully chosen these 19 non-profit organizations to help Club for the Future propel its mission to invent the future of life in space through an inspired ecosystem of future space explorers. We look forward to seeing the impact that can be achieved by partnering with each to represent our core values for education, diversity and exploration."

Partnering with 44 prestigious universities, ASF awards Astronaut Scholarships to students in their junior and senior year of college studying science, technology, engineering, or mathematics. These Astronaut Scholars are among the best and brightest minds in STEM who show initiative, creativity, and excellence in their chosen field.

"ASF and Club for the Future are very much aligned in their respective missions," said Caroline Schumacher, President and CEO of the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation. "We are confident our scholars will be the next astronauts, aerospace engineers, ground-breaking scientists and researchers. In order to continue finding the most exceptional students, we need to inspire the youth to become Astronaut Scholars."

"As STEM leaders, we have a responsibility to support the new generation of innovators as they become the next ground-breakers, space explorers, and world leaders," said Astronaut Curt Brown, Chairman of ASF's Board of Directors. "This grant enables the Foundation to continue removing barriers for today's students, the most imperative element of our overall mission."

To learn more about the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation and the Astronaut Scholarship, [click here](#).

#### **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 by the six surviving Mercury 7 Astronauts in 1984, ASF partners with industry leaders, universities and individual donors to achieve its mission of supporting and rewarding the best and brightest college students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

#### **About Club for the Future**

Founded by Blue Origin in 2019, Club for the Future is a non-profit foundation whose mission is to inspire future generations to pursue careers in STEM and to help invent the future of life in space. The Club and its collaborators are doing this through Postcards to Space, space-focused

curriculum, and access to space on Blue Origin's rockets. For more information visit, [ClubforFuture.org](http://ClubforFuture.org)

### **About Blue Origin**

Blue Origin was founded by Jeff Bezos with the vision of enabling a future where millions of people are living and working in space to benefit Earth. To preserve Earth, Blue Origin believes that humanity will need to expand, explore, find new energy and material resources, and move industries that stress Earth into space. On July 20, Blue Origin will fly its first astronaut crew on board New Shepard to space and back. To watch the launch live on July 20 or sign up for updates visit [BlueOrigin.com](http://BlueOrigin.com).

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