

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation Earns Coveted 4-Star Rating from Charity Navigator

ORLANDO – The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation’s (ASF) strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency have earned it a 4-star rating from [Charity Navigator](#), America’s largest independent charity evaluator. This is the first time that the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation has earned this top distinction.

“It’s important our donors trust that we’re using their donations wisely to accomplish ASF’s mission of supporting and rewarding the best and brightest college students in STEM education,” said Caroline Schumacher, Astronaut Scholarship Foundation President and CEO. “Our 4-star Charity Navigator rating demonstrates to our supporters our good governance and financial accountability.”

Since 2002, using objective analysis, Charity Navigator has awarded only the most fiscally responsible organizations a 4-star rating. In 2011, Charity Navigator added 17 metrics, focused on governance and ethical practices as well as measures of openness, to its ratings methodology. These Accountability & Transparency metrics, which account for 50 percent of a charity’s overall rating, reveal which charities operate in accordance with industry best practices and whether they are open with their donors and stakeholders. On June 1, 2016, we upgraded our methodology for rating each charity’s financial health with CN 2.1. These enhancements further substantiate the financial health of our four-star charities.

“The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation’s exceptional 4-star rating sets it apart from its peers and demonstrates its trustworthiness to the public,” according to Michael Thatcher, President & CEO of Charity Navigator. “Only a quarter of charities rated by Charity Navigator receive the distinction of our 4-star rating. This adds ASF to a preeminent group of charities working to overcome our world’s most pressing challenges. Based on its 4-star rating, people can trust that their donations are going to a financially responsible and ethical charity when they decide to support ASF.”

The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation’s rating and other information about charitable giving are available free of charge [here](#). More-detailed information about ASF’s rating is available to Charity Navigator site visitors who become registered users, another free service.

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 Charity Navigator

The [Charity Navigator](#) is the largest charity evaluator in America and its website attracts more visitors than all other charity rating groups combined. The organization helps guide intelligent giving by evaluating the Financial Health and Accountability & Transparency of more than 8,000

charities. Charity Navigator accepts no advertising or donations from the organizations it evaluates, ensuring unbiased evaluations, nor does it charge the public for this trusted data. As a result, Charity Navigator, a 501 (c) (3) public charity itself, depends on support from individuals, corporations and foundations that believe it provides a much-needed service to America's charitable givers. Charity Navigator can be reached directly by telephone at (201) 818-1288, or by mail at 139 Harristown Road, Suite 101, Glen Rock, N.J., 07452.

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