



National Space Club & Foundation
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**NATIONAL SPACE CLUB AND FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES
2024 GODDARD MEMORIAL DINNER KEYNOTE SCHOLAR**

Washington, DC: The National Space Club & Foundation proudly announces that, after a nation-wide search, Abigail Frank has won the National Space Club & Foundation's Keynote Scholarship, securing her role as the keynote speaker during the Club's 67th Annual Robert H. Goddard Memorial Dinner scheduled for Friday, March 22, 2024, at the Washington Hilton.

Ms. Frank is a college sophomore at Purdue University majoring in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering. She leads the Purdue Space Program's High Altitude Team overseeing the development of a reusable solid rocket for a high-altitude experiment studying plant reactions to g-forces. As Lead Propulsion Engineer, she managed test stand development and studied grain geometry's impact on in-flight performance. Abigail is actively involved in the Honors College, mentors her peers, and is part of *Leading Women Toward Space Careers*.

Through a program in Kenya last summer, funded by the National Science Foundation, Abigail researched educational policy, integrating young mothers into the Tumaini Innovation Center. Her work earned awards from the Purdue Undergraduate Research Conference and the John Martinson Honors College.

As a NASA Western Aerospace Scholar in high school, Abigail explored the psychological consequences of long-term space travel. She led the Sustainability Club, emphasizing sustainability in human spaceflight. During school she garnered connections with teachers and advised her peers on various topics. She was also class valedictorian.

Abigail's athletic journey includes being a U.S. Junior Olympics Rhythmic Gymnastics Team member and later Head Coach of a large gymnastics team, where she was recognized as regional Coach of the Year. She is a 3-time equestrian National Champion and Oregon Horsewoman of the Year.

Abigail has traveled extensively, having volunteered globally, from coral reef restoration in Thailand to building solar power arrays in Kenya. An avid hiker and rock climber, her travels include exploring national parks on five continents. She aspires to earn a Ph.D. to contribute to the frontiers of space exploration, showcasing a diverse and dedicated individual poised to make a lasting impact.

The Dr. Robert H. Goddard Memorial Dinner is the major event of the Washington, DC space calendar. First celebrated in 1958, it is traditionally held each year near the anniversary of the first successful flight by Dr. Goddard of a liquid-fueled rocket. The dinner brings together nearly 2,000 members of the government, industry and educational space community and is considered the industry's premier gathering of space professionals. In addition to the Keynote Scholarship, the Club presents several awards at the dinner to outstanding individuals for accomplishments in spaceflight, engineering, science, management and education. The premier award, the Goddard Trophy, is presented to the individual, group or program deemed to have made the most significant contribution to U.S. leadership in rocketry and astronautics either as a lifetime of achievement or in the previous calendar year.

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The National Space Club and Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization devoted to fostering excellence in space activity through interaction between industry and government, and through a continuing program of educational support. Youth Education is a premier focus of the Club, providing over \$160,000 in scholarships and internships each year. Awards are offered to recognize outstanding accomplishments in spaceflight, engineering, science, management, and education.

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