

THE HERMES



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INSPIRED 24

"Dream big, work hard, stay humble, and surround yourself with positive people." - Suni Williams

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Inspired 2 the Classroom 4 Blue Ghost!

Lucero "Violet Nebula" Martinez, Executive Director of Education for The Inspired 24, was recently attending a South Texas Astronomical event one evening in Brownsville, TX, when she met Jesus Charles, the Director of Spacecraft Operations for Firefly Aerospace.

Yes, you read that correctly - Firefly Aerospace - the same company that landed a digital copy of the I24 member mosaic on the surface of the moon in early March.

Jesus had dropped by with his family for a night of STEAM activities, stargazing, and viewing the Christina Torres Memorial Observatory.

In her fifth grade classroom, Violet Nebula and her students closely followed the Blue Ghost mission, watching as the little lunar lander made its way to the surface and successfully performed its scientific duties for NASA.

They even learned about Jesus Charles and his background, how he is from Mexico and even went to school in Brownsville, TX.

Seeing such similarities between themselves and Jesus, the students were inspired to learn and connect even more.

During their conversation at the *Astronomy in the Park* event, Violet Nebula shared with Jesus how inspired her students have become, due to his work on the Blue Ghost mission.

In turn, he suggested hosting a Zoom meeting for all fifth grade science students at Canales Elementary, and possibly meet her students in person before the end of the school year. He also gave Violet Nebula Blue Ghost wristbands and mission patch stickers for all of her students.

This serendipitous connection comes just after Blue Ghost relayed its final mission data on March 16, 2025 and powered down for good. Firefly Aerospace announced that it met 100% of its mission objectives for their first fully successful commercial Moon landing, with preparations already in the works for Blue Ghost Mission 2.

The Inspired 24 will continue to promote its outreach and networking connections in support of space companies, such as Firefly Aerospace, who not only pave the way for innovation, but who also create opportunities for inspiration through inclusion.



*Have you been inspired by something or someone?
Send me an email about it!
zen@theinspired24.com*





Member Spotlight!

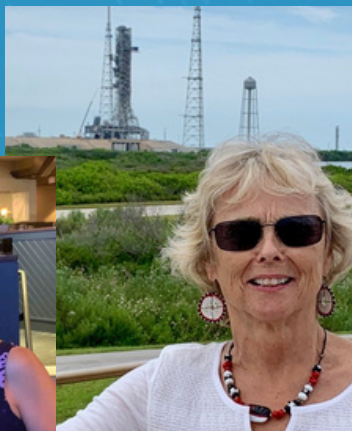
Sally "Super Sal" Krusing



"Is there a wanderlust gene?" asks Super Sal. "If so, I inherited it from my mother's family," she replies, answering her own question.

Perhaps her wanderlust was inherited from her ancestors who migrated to Philadelphia, PA, from Bern, Switzerland, in 1767.

Growing up in Tampa, Super Sal recalls how much Cape Canaveral loomed large for everyone in Florida. In sixth grade, her class went outside to see a rocket blast off into space one afternoon, and that experience stayed with her for many years. She continued to think about that launch for a long time, but with a deeper knowing she would never be an actual NASA astronaut.



Fast forward to adulthood, and several years after retiring from IBM, Super Sal was on a flight to Tanzania to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro when she read a story in the airplane magazine about Sir Richard Branson and Virgin Galactic. Her childhood inspiration immediately returned when she read that NASA training wasn't required for a Virgin Galactic flight to space. She could be a passenger, not a pilot or a scientist, just an ordinary person doing an extraordinary activity.

So, in the spring of 2013, Super Sal contacted Virgin Galactic and signed a contract to go into space. Now, in 2025, she happily claims that she is still an aspiring astronaut. Virgin Galactic notified her that she should be blasting off in 2026 on one of their newly designed Delta Class spaceships.

Super Sal comments, "I never planned my life, nor had a script of what I wanted it to be. When opportunities presented themselves, I evaluated the pros and cons and usually said yes. The path I've traveled helped me develop confidence and courage to believe I could travel into space as an astronaut with Virgin Galactic."

Super Sal has become an inspiration for anyone who dreams of flying into space, reminding us that those dreams really can come true!





I24 Headlines

CHaSE Training Class #4

The next I24 spaceflight training is happening next month!

Spots are still available!

Here are the details:

- Location: Tucson, AZ (Univ. of AZ)
- Dates: May 31-June 1, 2025
- Cost: \$500/day, so \$1,000 for both days (does not include air, lodging or meals)
- Day 1: Water egress training in the Univ. of Arizona swimming pool; learn proper water ingress from parachute harness; proper usage of water survival suits; work as a team to navigate and enter a survival raft.
- Day 2: Pressure suit training; classroom & hands-on learning; working in teams “donning” & “doffing” pressurized suits.

Payment isn't due until a week or two before the class begins. And a Certificate of Spaceflight Training will be issued upon completion.

Please contact Titan at titan@theinspired24.com if you are interested or have questions!



Member in Action!

Can a story change the way we explore space? *Beth “Storyteller” Mund says, yes!*

STORIES of Space started as an ambitious idea shared by Storyteller in August 2022 on her Casual Space podcast. Aegis Aerospace graciously agreed to carry the first set of **STORIES** to space. All 300+ submitted stories that were sent to the website (www.storiesofspace.com) were launched on August 1, 2023 on a Northrup Grumman rocket to the International Space Station, where the stories spent a total of 273 days in space, completing 4,368 orbits around Earth and traveling 111,384,000 miles! The stories returned on a SpaceX Dragon capsule on April 30, 2024.

All I24 members are invited to add their story to the next “STORIES of Space” mission, which will launch a high altitude weather science balloon developed by the Space Club of the College of DuPage, IL - with your story onboard!
Deadline for submission is April 19, 2025.

[CLICK HERE TO ADD YOUR STORY TO](#)
 [MISSION 04!](#)

The **STORIES of Space Project™** collects your stories and carries them to unique and challenging environments. This experience makes space accessible to everyone and will change how we explore space—one story at a time.

[Support the mission \(and Storyteller’s inspirational idea\) on GoFundMe!](#)





Affiliate News

- Who says you can't network and party at the same time? Come meet in person at **Yuri's Night** (now called One Space), at Kennedy Space Center, now on June 21, 2025 (rescheduled from April 12) OR join the West Coast party on April 5th at the California Science Center in Los Angeles! Your ticket includes an immersive space experience, surprise guests (sometimes a famous astronaut!), art & storytelling installations, cocktails & food, and of course, live music & dancing! **CLICK HERE FOR TICKETS TO KSC EVENT!**
- *Fly with a mentor in Zero-G!* Space for Humanity is hosting a contest for participants to join a space mentor as their guest on a Zero-G flight departing from Long Beach, CA this summer. The contest includes creating and posting a video on social media. Deadline is April 15, 2025. **CLICK HERE FOR PARTICIPATION INSTRUCTIONS!**
- SpaceKind Crew 16 begins in May 2025! This 8-week virtual leadership training is led by Loretta Hidalgo Whitesides, a Founder Astronaut at Virgin Galactic and author of *The New Right Stuff*, which serves as a "textbook" for the course. This non-traditional learning course will invite you to open your heart, define your dreams, and share your life vision, all while navigating your own hero's journey and preparing you to make your unique contributions to the cosmos. **CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!**
- Tickets are still available for the Analog Astronaut Conference at Biosphere 2 in Tucson, AZ, May 1-4. Don't miss this amazing opportunity to network and learn more about the lives of Analog Astronauts! **CLICK HERE FOR TICKETS!**



**Meet some of your new
I24 crewmates!**

**CLICK HERE to watch the replay
of March's All-Hands Meeting**

NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH

(March 2025)

New Members

Will Schweitzer

Members with new call signs:

Robert "Scout" Barnum

Beth "Storyteller" Mund

Door prize winners:

Tapaswini "Iron Maiden" Sharma: Dr.

Proctor's Coloring Journal

Bob "Spacester" DeWitt: *Earthlight* by Dr.


Proctor (autographed)

Jennifer "Jennway" Pint: *Sharing Space* by

Cady Coleman

Did you know that the I24 has an



eBay shop? 

**Purchase some cool space items
and help support the I24 mission!**

"Inspired 2 Space 4 All"

We, The Inspired 24, are an inclusive group of like-minded, space positive people dedicated to promoting the access to space for all.

Our mission objectives are:

Network with organizations that support inclusive participation in space exploration.

Collaborate to create opportunities to experience the overview effect.

Train for space flights and provide space-ready individuals for future missions.

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