



THE HERMES

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INSPIRED 24

"As a female pilot, the sacred rose garden in my heart is the motherland's blue sky." -Liu Yang

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I24 & The AAC



Early last month, more than a dozen I24 members participated or volunteered at this year's [Analog Astronaut Conference \(AAC\)](#) held at Biosphere 2 near Tucson, AZ. Additionally, several members took part in training during and after the AAC as part of the World's Biggest Analog (WBA) cohort, scheduled for October 2025.

During the AAC, attendees engaged in presentations, panels, and workshops with numerous prominent figures from the analog astronaut community, as well as researchers from Biosphere 2 and various scientists and medical professionals dedicated to analog astronaut health and safety. The topics covered in workshops and panels varied widely, including geology, the arts, human factors, and medical contingency training.



Presenters included Biosphere 2 and SAM researchers John Adams and Kai Staats, Tasha Coelho, Dr. Gernot Groemer, Ashley Kowalski, Dr. Shawna Pandya, Dr. Tiffany Vora, and others. I24 member presenters included Thorsten "Pathfinder" Eschweiler, Cassandra Kloss, Julio "Cosmos" Rezende, and new members Dr. David Wexler and Kent Nebergall.

I24 member Jas "Gold" Purewal and Dr. Sian Proctor, a civilian astronaut who flew on Inspiration4 in 2021, are the founders of AAC. They welcome I24 members to be part of next year's conference.





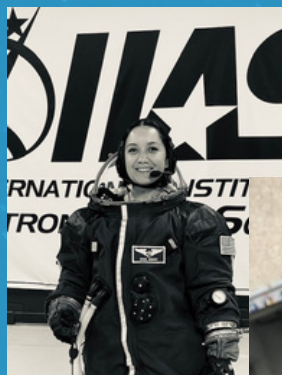
Member Spotlight!

Susie "STEAM" Bennett



Susie "STEAM" Bennett has been fascinated by space since she was a kid growing up on Florida's Gulf Coast. She used to watch the shuttle launches from her backyard, and something about it always stuck with her. That early excitement turned into a lifelong interest in space and science.

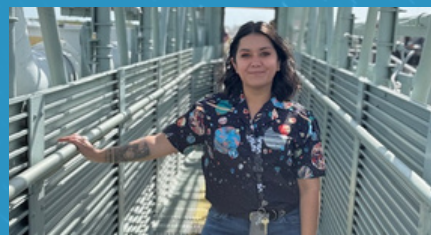
Now, STEAM works as a microbiologist at NASA's Kennedy Space Center. She studies the presence and concentration of microorganisms on different types of samples, mostly to make sure there are safe ways of producing fresh foods for astronauts and future explorers. She gets to work on some pretty exciting projects, including one where she will soon be analyzing samples that were on the International Space Station and another where she will be able to see how resilient microbes are in simulated Lunar and Martian environments. STEAM feels it's incredible to be part of something that connects space research with real-world impact.



STEAM explains how it has been a long journey to get to where she is and how it definitely did not follow a traditional route. She studied Biology in her undergraduate years and earned her master's degree in Microbiology and Cell Science. However, before this role, she had a variety of jobs—from managing teams in retail to teaching high school students to working in biotech to working in a brewery—and each one gave her skills she still uses every day. It may have taken many years (6 to be exact), and many interviews (and rejections), but she persevered and kept her eyes on the prize. She now feels proud of herself for everything she has done to become the person she is today.

STEAM also attributes her success to the space-related training she's completed. She joined the first Inspired24 training at Biosphere 2 and the CHaSE center and also took part in the Project PoSSUM Scientist-Astronaut Program through IIAS. These programs helped her grow, not just as a scientist but also as a person, as they challenged her in ways she wasn't sure she would ever be brave enough to be. STEAM explains that she feels like nothing is off limits to her after having completed these programs. They helped her to overcome her fears and doubts, and she is so thankful for that.

As for the future, STEAM hopes to be blessed enough to keep contributing to space science in meaningful ways. Whether it's helping grow food in space or making life better on Earth through science, she wants to be part of the work that helps us move forward together.





SPACE EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES for Educators



Pathfinders Online Institute 2025
Space Suits in Progress: Electronic Textiles
 Session A: July 28 - August 1, 2025
 Session B: August 4 - August 8, 2025
 Presented by BJLFELTCLAYMAKER LLC
 More Info: <https://bit.ly/eTextiles25>
 Register by June 1, 2025
<https://pathfinders.onwingspan.com/>

Logos for BJLFELTCLAYMAKER LLC, Infocys, and Pathfinders are also present.

More Info: bit.ly/eTextiles25 Register: <https://pathfinders.onwingspan.com/>

Start with Art:
 STEAM Learning with Chibitronics Paper Circuits
 Free Online Professional Development & Supplies!



Logos for PATHFINDERS, CHIBITRONICS, and Infocys are shown.

July 7-25, 2025
 Registration Open!

Start with Art: STEAM Learning with Chibitronics Paper Circuits

Link:
<https://chibitronics.com/2025/03/04/registration-open-for-summer-pathfinders-2025/>

Bring Space Science to Your Classroom!

How the ACE Project Works:

- ✓ Your students perform hands-on classroom experiments during the 2 week mission.
- ✓ A WBA Crew member will conduct the same experiments in an isolated space habitat
- ✓ We compare data and explore real-world scientific challenges


Engage students in STEM, critical thinking, and real-time analog research!

Mission Date: October 2025
 Where? Your classroom + a worldwide simulated space environment
 Sign up for our Information Session, June 2025 link in comments/bio



Link for more information and registration: [Here](#)

SATTAA2025
 Astrophysics Content and Technology
 July 14-18, 2025



Learning online

What we know about the world, and how we know about it, is changing at breakneck speed. The goal of SATTAA2025 is to support STEM teachers with astrophysics content that includes the proverbial 'tools-of-the-trade'. Our sequence provides four focal areas we aim to support the integration of scientific and engineering practices for classroom contexts:

1. Development of STEM content specific to astrophysics.
2. Exploration of current technology tools, including AI.
3. Interactions with STEM professionals located in the USA and elsewhere in the world.
4. Teacher-led sessions supporting lesson development and exchange.

On each of the five days, our online sessions begin at 9 am and end at 3 pm CDT. All active participants will earn CPE credits. Ten (10) teachers who complete the full week will, through the generous support of our friends at S.E.A.T., receive stipends of \$1,000. To register, please use the QR code below, or copy/paste the following link into your browser → <https://forms.office.com/r/ZNvaNEbWax>

Logos for S.E.A.T. and UTSA are shown, along with a QR code.

Registration link:
<https://forms.office.com/r/ZNvaNEbWax>


Polar STEAM Team
 5h · 🌐

Educator applications are now open. Don't miss an opportunity to bring polar science to your learners! To submit your application, go to polarsteam.info/application/.

Applications can also be accessed via the Linktree in our bio.

#polarsteam #polarsteamteam
 #wherecuriositythrives #nsffunded #educator
 #educatoropportunity #teachers #teacher

Educator applications are now open!



<https://polarsteam.info/application>



I24 Headlines

- **I24 is going to the moon... again!** But this time it's with Astrobotic's Griffin Lunar Lander. The Inspired 24 has been invited to have something engraved on a metal portion of the lander for the company's lunar mission with the Griffin lander. The Pittsburgh-based company contracts with NASA, DoD, and commercial clients. *Stay tuned for more info!*
- Got an idea for space research or an awesome engineering design? Come join the **I24 Innovation Team!** The monthly meetings are cooking up some fantastic ideas! Contact Ranger for more info: ranger@theinspired24.com

Affiliate News

- **TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE FOR YURI'S NIGHT AT KSC!** Remember, the I24 is an official sponsor for **Yuri's Night** (now called One Space)! Come join the galactic fun on June 21, 2025 at Kennedy Space Center in Florida! Your ticket includes an immersive space experience, surprise guests (sometimes a famous astronaut!), art & storytelling installations, cocktails & food, and of course, live music & dancing!
- New Worlds and The Space Cowboy Ball are back this year, October 24 & 25, in Houston, TX! This one-of-a-kind conference combines interactive conversations with famous speakers in the space industry (Buzz Aldrin was the 2019 Cowboy Award Winner). And the famous Space Cowboy Ball will be held at Space Center Houston. **GET YOUR TICKETS AND HOTEL NOW!** It sells out quickly!



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

**CLICK HERE to watch the replay
of MAY'S All-Hands Meeting**

NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH

(May 2025)

New Members

Martin Holec	Jahnavi Dangeti
David Wexler	Donovan Magney
Kent Nebergall	Thomas Owens
Gulruh Abdullajonova	

Members with new call signs:

David "AstroWex" Wexler
Mariam "Polar" Nassem
Gulrookh "Space Girl" Abdullajonova
Kent "Iceman" Nebergall
Ben "SubSpace" Rackley
Will "Space Pirate" Schweitzer
Thomas "RigelTom" Owen
Jahnavi "Voyager" Dangeti



They're here!

**Get your I24 shirts and
hoodies on Amazon!**



"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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