



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Space for Teachers Awarded NASA TEAM II Innovator Grant to Expand Classroom Microgravity Research Nationwide

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Austin, TX — February 9, 2026 — Space for Teachers has been awarded a NASA TEAM II Innovator grant to expand classroom microgravity research opportunities nationwide. The project, *Fostering STEM Identity through Classroom Microgravity Projects and Industry Collaboration*, will support continued growth of the organization's Embedded Teacher Program and ISS FASTLab, bringing authentic aerospace research experiences to more classrooms across the United States.

The grant advances Space for Teachers' educator-centered model that pairs teachers with one-on-one mentorship from NASA, academic, and industry experts and sustained engagement from workforce partners. Through this approach, educators guide students through aerospace research challenges that are difficult to replicate in traditional classroom settings.

"With this award, we can move beyond traditional classroom activities and give educators sustained access to the people, tools, and research environments that align with real aerospace work." — Laura Tomlin, CEO and Co-Founder of Space for Teachers.

To date, the Embedded Teacher Program has supported five cohorts of educators through yearlong curriculum and research projects focused on real aerospace problems. The program connects educators and students with industry partners, academic institutions, and Space Grant collaborators, supporting classroom learning while creating structured opportunities for mentor engagement.

"Every week for a year, I met with my cohort. We planned, problem-solved, shared frustrations, and learned from our mentors. I learned perseverance through this process, and I share that with my students every single day. They saw me learning, growing, and overcoming obstacles, and in turn, they did the same. That's one of the most powerful lessons I could ever hope to teach." — Karin Paquin, 2025 Embedded Teacher Program Cohort member.

With support from the NASA TEAM II Innovator grant, Space for Teachers expects to expand its reach to more than 7,000 students nationwide over the grant period. This growth will be supported by partners including the University of Texas Center for Space Research STEM Enhancement of Earth and Space (SEES) internship, Carthage College, the NASA Space Grant Consortium network, the Boys and Girls Club of America, and Georgia Public Broadcasting.

About Space for Teachers

Space for Teachers is a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering educators through authentic space-related research and engineering experiences that bring real-world STEM challenges into the classroom. By placing teachers at the center of spaceflight and microgravity research, Space for Teachers helps inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, and explorers.

Learn more: <https://spaceforteachers.org/>