



Space Challenge

June 6, 2018 Announcement Speakers

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Landon Taylor
CEO, Base 11
@LandonVTaylor

As CEO, Landon Taylor leads the national expansion of Base 11's STEM workforce and entrepreneur accelerator model. By partnering with industry, academia and philanthropy, Base 11's efforts transform high-potential, low-resource students into the STEM talent most in demand by industry. Landon previously spent 25 years in senior leadership positions in industry including leading the development and deployment of nationally implemented corporate strategies for FORTUNE 500® entities, including The First American Corporation (FAC) Family of Companies and CoreLogic.



Dr. Peter H. Diamandis
Founder, Executive Chairman, XPRIZE Foundation
@PeterDiamandis

Dr. Diamandis founded the XPRIZE, best known for its highly successful \$10 million Ansari XPRIZE, which largely inspired the private space industry. A serial entrepreneur and visionary, he also founded Singularity University, Zero Gravity Corporation, Human Longevity Inc, Planetary Resources, and SEDS, Students for the Exploration and Development of Space, while a student at MIT. In 2014, [Fortune Magazine](#) named Peter one of "The World's 50 Greatest Leaders," and in 2016, the Greek Government honored Diamandis by issuing a 1.2 Euro stamp into circulation. Peter's biography and the story of the XPRIZE was published in 2016: *How To Make A Spaceship – A Band of Renegades, an Epic Race, and the Birth of Private Spaceflight*, by Julian Guthrie.



Leland Melvin
Former NASA Astronaut and NFL player
@Astro_Flow

Leland is the only person drafted into the NFL to have flown in space. He worked at NASA Langley Research Center in the area of nondestructive testing creating optical fiber sensors for measuring damage in aerospace vehicles, resulting in publications in numerous scientific journals. After hanging up his space boots he was appointed head of NASA Education and served as the co-chair on the White House's Federal Coordination in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S.T.E.M.) Education Task Force developing the nation's 5-year STEM education plan. Leland was the United States representative and chair of the International Space Education Board (ISEB), a global collaboration on learning about space. Leland is author of the memoir Chasing Space: An Astronaut's Story of Grit, Grace, and Second Chances. He has a bachelor's in chemistry and a master's in materials science engineering.

[**Interview link**](#)



Daniel Hicks
CEO, New Mexico Spaceport Authority
@Spaceport_NM

Dan Hicks served 34 years with the U.S. Army, beginning in 1982 as a Test Conductor at White Sands Missile Range, and rose through the ranks to Deputy Executive Director. In 2016, he was named CEO of the New Mexico Spaceport Authority, which runs Spaceport America, the world's first purpose-built commercial spaceport located in southern New Mexico.

[**Interview link**](#)



Michelle Murray

**Senior Advisor to the Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
Deputy Division Manager, Operations Integration Division, AST-500
@ShellyMurray1**

Michelle Murray serves as the Senior Advisor to the FAA for Commercial Space Transportation (AST), providing expert guidance to complex issues that cross multiple programs and functional areas of AST's two-fold mission: safety and the promotion of the U.S. commercial space transportation industry. She has more than 15 years of experience in AST, having served previously as Deputy Division Manager of the Operations Integration Division, Program Lead for Experimental Permits, and Senior Technical Advisor for Pre-Application Consultation. Prior to AST, she worked for Lockheed Martin and NASA as a systems engineer and flight dynamics engineer for several of NASA's earth observing satellite programs. She is a graduate of the FAA's Senior Leadership Development Program, holds a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering from University of Maryland, and is a graduate as well as a visiting lecturer at the International Space University Space Studies Program.



Al Bunshaft

**SVP, Global Affairs, Dassault Systèmes
@AlBunshaft**

Al Bunshaft, Senior Vice President of Global Affairs, Americas, for Dassault Systèmes, is responsible for new business development, academic sales and relationships, and coordination of the company's involvement in institutes and consortia. He also serves as President of the Dassault Systèmes US Foundation, part of the global charitable organization La Fondation Dassault Systèmes. Previously, he had a 25-year career at IBM, holding various executive roles in R&D, strategic initiatives and general management. Bunshaft's expertise in 3D visualization, computer graphics and engineering-related software tools has been a special focus of his career. He is Dassault Systèmes' leading voice for STEM education in the U.S. He received his bachelor's in computer science and mathematics from the University at Albany, SUNY, and has a master's in computer engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.



Dr. Franklin R. Chang-Diaz
Founder Ad Astra, former NASA Astronaut
@FranklinChangD

Dr. Díaz served NASA for 25 years as the first Latin American Astronaut. In that 25 year career he tied the record for most space flights with 7 missions, received NASA's Distinguished Service Medal 4 times, and accumulated over 1600 hours in space. Since 2005, he has served as Chairman and CEO of Ad Astra Rocket Company, a leading spaceflight technology company dedicated to the development of advanced plasma rocket propulsion. The company is developing the Variable Specific Impulse Magnetoplasma Rocket (VASIMR®) technology. Dr. Chang Díaz holds a PhD. in plasma physics from MIT and is the inventor of the VASIMR® engine. He led the initial experiments at MIT and the Johnson Space Center and is the author of the original NASA patents on the technology.



Antoine Garibaldi
President, University of Detroit Mercy
@UCMDetroit

Antoine Garibaldi is the first lay president of University of Detroit Mercy, Michigan's largest Catholic, Jesuit and Mercy University. During his seven years at Detroit Mercy, enrollment and retention have increased; national and regional rankings have risen; the endowment has doubled; a total of \$88 million of a \$100 million comprehensive campaign has been raised; and an economic development organization, the Live6 Alliance, was co-founded with The Kresge Foundation to focus on strengthening the Livernois Avenue and McNichols Road commercial corridor in Northwest Detroit. An educational psychologist by profession, he is the author of eleven books and more than 85 research articles and chapters and is a Fellow of both the American Psychological Association and the American Educational Research Association. In addition to serving on many local boards, he serves on the boards of: Georgetown University; Association of Governing Boards' (AGB) Council of Presidents; as well as the executive committees and boards of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities and the Horizon League Athletic Conference.

[**Interview Link**](#)



Forouzan Golshani
Dean, College of Engineering, Cal State Long Beach
@CSULBengineers

Forouzan Golshani has served as Dean of the California State University Long Beach College of Engineering since 2007. During his tenure, enrollment has doubled to nearly 5,000 students and programs have expanded to meet student and industry needs. The author of more than 200 articles, Golshani has served as editor in chief and editorial board member of IEEE MultiMedia, IEEE Transactions on Multimedia, and other scholarly publications. The holder of 10 U.S. patents, Golshani is founder of several successful startups, including Corporate Enhancement Group, Roz Software Systems, and RFID Integrated Solutions. He is a Fellow of IEEE and the National Academy of Inventors and a member of the California Assembly Aerospace Advisory Council.

[**Interview Link**](#)



Christopher Nilsen
Student, Liquid Project Manager for Purdue Space Program
@PurdueSpace



Paul Shin
Student, Space Enterprise at Berkeley Cofounder
@SEBerkeley

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