Thursday, April 17, 2025

Astronaut Scholarship Recognition Program

YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN US AT THE

SPELMAN COLLEGE ASTRONAUT SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION SCHOLAR AWARD CEREMONY

FEATURING ASTRONAUT BERNARD HARRIS

Spelman College

BERNARD HARRIS
Veteran NASA Astronaut

WINTER JONES
2023 & 2024
Astronaut Scholar

Astronaut Bernard Harris is a veteran of two space flights and has logged a total of 438 hours in space. He was assigned as a mission specialist on STS-55, Spacelab D-2 and was the Payload Commander on STS-63, the first flight of the new joint Russian-American Space Program. During this flight, he became the first African-American to walk in space.

Harris will present an ASF Scholarship Award to Spelman College student Winter Jones.

Following the award presentation, Harris will give a special space talk to those in attendance.

The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation was created to ensure that the United States would maintain its leadership in science and technology by supporting some of the very best science, technology, engineering and math college students.

https://astronautscholarship.org

Convocation Schedule

17 April, 2025

- **Welcome & Occaision**
  Nia McKenzie, C'2026 | 2025 Astronaut Scholarship Finalist

- **Introduction of Guest Speaker**
  Winter Jones, C'2025 | 2023 & 2024 Astronaut Scholarship Recipient

- **Award Presentation**
  Dr. *Bernard Harris - NASA Astronaut*

- **Astronaut Address, Q&A**
  Dr. *Bernard Harris - NASA Astronaut*

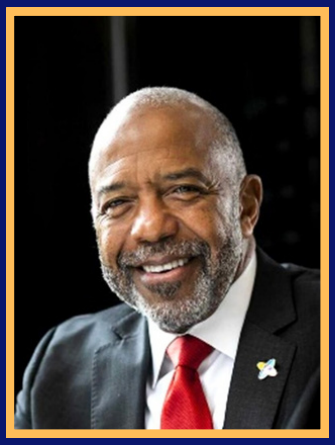
- **Special Presentation**
  Spelman College

- **Closing**
  Raihanna Terrell, C'2027 | 2025 Astronaut Scholarship Finalist

2023 & 2024 Astronaut Scholar

Winter Jones, C'2025, is a senior mathematics and aerospace engineering double major from Atlanta with a passion for rocketry and aspirations to become an aerospace engineer. As a college student, Winter put her skills to the test with research experiences through Spelman College's Innovation Lab, the Department of Defense Research Scholars Program, Georgia Institute of Technology's Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) Program, and a NASA University Leader Initiative research project. After she graduates, Winter aims to study aerospace engineering at Georgia Tech for graduate school before beginning her career as a rocket engineer.

Becoming an Astronaut Scholar has helped Winter navigate her future career. During Innovators Weekend, she learned about certification programs for high-power rocketry. At the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame Induction, she connected with the Deputy Director of the Kennedy Space Center and a ConOps Flight Planning Engineer from Blue Origin, receiving invitations to exclusive tours at Blue Origin and the Kennedy Space Center, as well as a VIP viewing of the GOES-U satellite launch. These invaluable experiences provided Winter with profound insights into the possibilities available to an aerospace engineer. Ms. Jones is deeply grateful to the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation for building a community that supports her in reaching her full potential!



Dr. Harris is currently CEO & Managing Partner of Vesalius Ventures, Inc., a venture capital firm, that invest in early to mid-stage Healthcare technologies and companies. He is responsible for managing a portfolio of private assets of early and mid-stage venture investments and operating companies.

He served as CEO and Executive Director, National Math & Science Initiative and led the organization's efforts to improve teacher effectiveness and student achievement in communities across the country. He has been involved in math and science education for over 25 years through his philanthropy as founder of the Harris Institute & Foundation.

Dr. Harris was at NASA for ten years, where he conducted research in musculoskeletal physiology and clinical investigations of space adaptation and developed in-flight medical devices to extend Astronaut stays in space.A veteran astronaut for over thirty years, he has logged more than 438 hours and traveled over 7.2 million miles in space.

He is a member of the Board of Directors for Raytheon Technologies (NYSE: RTX), MassMutual, Solventum (NYSE:SOLV) and U.S. Physical Therapy (NYSE: USPH). Dr. Harris served as a Board of Director/Trustee for Salient Midstream & MLP Fund and Salient MF Trust, and Barings Fund & BBDC. In addition, he is on the non-profit Boards of the Texas Medical Center (past Chair), Astronaut Scholarship Foundation and the Harris Institute & Foundation.

He earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Houston, a Master of Medical Science from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Houston and a Doctorate of Medicine from Texas Tech University School of Medicine. He completed a Residency in Internal Medicine at the Mayo Clinic, a National Research Council Fellowship in Endocrinology at the NASA Ames Research Center and trained as a Flight Surgeon at the Aerospace School of Medicine, Brooks Air Force Base. He is also a licensed private pilot and certified scuba diver.

Dr. Harris is the recipient of numerous awards, including nine (9) honorary doctorates; (Stony Brook University (SUNY), Morehouse School of Medicine, New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), Washington & Jefferson College, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, University of Hartford, Indiana Institute of Technology, University of Houston and University of the Sciences), NASA Space Flight Medal, NASA Award of Merit, National Space Grant Distinguished Services Award, James Bryant Conant Award, a fellow of the American College of Physicians, a fellow of the American Telemedicine Association, a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the recipient of the 2000 Horatio Alger Award and 2024 Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award.

He is the author of "Dream Walker: A Journey of Achievement and Inspiration" 2010 and "Embracing Infinite Possibilities: Letting Go Of Fear To Find Your Highest Potential" 2025."

Meet Our Astronaut Scholars

2021 Astronaut Scholar

Jamila Eatman, C'2022 is a PhD Student at The University of Chicago Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering (PME), where she works to integrate science and engineering to address global challenges from the molecular level up. Jamila was Spelman College's inaugural Astronaut Scholar in 2021. While at Spelman Jamila conducted research with the International Institute of Nanotechnology REU program at Northwestern University. She contributed greatly to the work and was honored to be included as a co-author of a peer reviewed study published in the American Chemical Society Applied Materials and Interfaces journal.

Her investment into environmental monitoring and advancement took form in middle school as she began participating in city-wide science fairs. From acid rain experiments to understanding emerging "green" technologies, she developed a greater understanding of how science and engineering can meet to protect the environment. She deeply understands the need for more young women of color to enter the field of environmental sciences and nanotechnology. Her commitment to public service and community engagement is at the forefront of her mission as a scholar within this field.

2022 Astronaut Scholar

Kathleen Bostick, C'2023 graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree biology. In 2022 she was selected as Spelman College's second recipient of the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation (ASF) Award. The ASF has been a critical steppingstone in helping her discover her purpose of not only aspiring to become an astronaut but making STEM more accessible for women. Kathleen's research in plant biology was published by the Environmental Evidence Journal with the help of the Ayalew Lab at Spelman College, making her one of the youngest Black women to publish in plant biology. Following graduation, she worked at Emory University's National Primate Center studying language evolution and memory retention with monkeys. Her work is in the process of being published, and she is excited to share a more refined paradigm in the field of neuroscience.

Above all else, Kathleen's largest commitment in life is to service. She has spearheaded the development of a new school in Accra, Ghana for young Black girls to have increased accessibility to STEM education, paving the way for the next generation of innovators. As the 2025 Miss Dupont Circle in the District of Columbia for the Miss America Organization, she drives meaningful change by advocating for policies supporting STEM education and improving accessibility for children locally. She plans to pursue an MD-PhD in neuroscience and become an astronaut. She hopes to live a lifetime of embodying the brave words of Mary Church Terrell, "lifting as we climb."