

Cosmic Connection



It's all smiles at a recent International Space Hall of Fame Board meeting as Board Members approve and sign the contract making the ISHFF the official partner with the 49th Wing to bring the DoD STARBASE program to Holloman Air Force Base and the community. From left to right, Board Members Rick Berry, Toots Green, and Jacquelyn Nichols, ISHFF President Johnny Powell, Board Chairman Cliff Hudson, and Board Member Jim Tomaka. (Credit ISHFF)

STARBASE HOLLOMAN is Official!

Alamogordo, New Mexico – The International Space Hall of Fame Foundation (ISHFF) congratulates Holloman Air Force Base on its selection as a location for the Department of Defense STARBASE program. “The Foundation is privileged to be able to partner with the 49th Wing to bring this exciting hands-on, minds-on STEM program to our region for the benefit of our students and schools,” said ISHFF Chairman Cliff Hudson.

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ISHFF President Johnny Powell and the Museum of Space History's traveling astronaut (played by staff member Levi Heisinger), left, and Astro meets Deadpool, right, at the Otero County Heritage Day event.



The International Space Hall of Fame Foundation (ISHFF) is a 501(c)3, non-profit corporation whose purpose is to receive and administer funds for scientific, educational, and charitable purposes. As part of its ongoing commitment to the community, the ISHFF constantly seeks new avenues to fulfill its purpose.

Upcoming events

ISHFF Board Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024

12:00 noon, Pizza Patio

Important Museum Notes

- The New Horizons Dome Theater on the campus of the Museum of Space History is temporarily closed for sewer line replacement. The Museum, Rocket Park, and other outside exhibits remain open. Construction is expected to take about a month.
- The November 14 Astronomy League meeting has been canceled due to construction in the theater building.
- The next Launch Pad Lecture at the Museum will be held on Friday, November 1, 2024, at 9:00 am. Location to be announced.
- For more info about museum events, visit www.nmspacemuseum.org



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DoD STARBASE is a premier educational program, sponsored by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. STARBASE Holloman, an initiative of the 49th Wing Commander, is hosted by the base and administered by the International Space Hall of Fame Foundation.

At DoD STARBASE students participate in challenging “hands-on, minds-on” activities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). The goal of

the Program is to raise the interest and improve the knowledge and skills of youth in STEM by exposing them to the technological environment and positive role models found on military bases and installations. Students will be provided 25 hours of STEM instruction during the 5-week program that includes dynamic learning experiences in physics, chemistry, technology, engineering, and math.

STARBASE Holloman is the 82nd STARBASE academy nationwide.

According to ISHFF President Johnny Powell, “Now the real work begins.”

It will initially focus on fifth grade students from area schools, including Alamogordo, Tularosa, Cloudcroft, Ruidoso, and Chaparral. The Program will be operated on Holloman Air Force Base in a designated building with a dedicated teaching staff, and students will be transported there on a weekly basis throughout the school year by the local districts. The program is open to 5th graders in public or private schools and those being homeschooled in and around the Alamogordo area.

“The ISHFF has been working closely with the 49th Wing’s School Liaison Program Manager Racquel Labadie, who serves as the primary link between the Holloman command, area schools, and the community. She is also the DoD STARBASE Holloman Installation Program Manager and has proven to be an incredible asset as we worked to bring this program to fruition,” said Hudson.

According to ISHFF President Johnny Powell, “Now the real work begins.” The Foundation will soon begin the hiring process for certified teaching staff, including a program director, deputy director, instructor, and administrative assistant. In addition, it will also begin purchasing the materials necessary to outfit the classrooms and prepare them for a mid-2025 start date. “We’re doing our very best to purchase as much locally as possible,” said Powell.



Students from Keonepoko Elementary in Hawaii attend the local STARBASE Academy. (Credit DoD STARBASE)





Artist rendition of a student participating in Arizona State's Virtual Reality learning lab. (Credit ASU)

ISHFF Considers Partnering with Sacramento Mountain Foundation to Bring Astronomy VR Lab to Museum

The ISHF Foundation, Museum of Space History, and Sacramento Mountain Foundation are in talks to bring a pilot Astronomy Virtual Reality program to the Museum. The program is being created through a partnership between Arizona State University and Dreamscape Learn. According to the ASU website, "Dreamscape Learn is a collaborative venture between Dreamscape Immersive and Arizona State University, merging the most advanced pedagogy with the entertainment industry's best emotional storytelling. Dreamscape Learn redefines how we teach and learn in the 21st century, while aiming to eliminate student learning gaps."

"**Dreamscape Immersive** is an American entertainment and technology company. It creates story-based full-roam [virtual reality](#) (VR) experiences which allow up to six people to simultaneously explore a virtual 3D environment, seeing fully rendered avatars of one another. Using real-time [motion capture](#) technology, full body mapping, [virtual reality headsets](#), and real-life room-scale stage sets, it enables users to move untethered in a virtual environment and interact with physical objects." (Credit: Wikipedia)

The program builds on the success that Arizona State has had with their biological science virtual reality program. The course debuted in the spring 2022 semester and has shown impressive progress. According to a report issued after program completion:

Overall, students in the Dreamscape Learn course had higher lab grades than those in the conventional course — 9% higher overall.

The median lab grade for students in Dreamscape Learn was 96%, compared with 87% for the other group.



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We've always known there is huge potential to unlock new learning realms for students by merging virtual reality — and all that it empowers educationally and socially — with advanced, adaptive educational experiences. Through Dreamscape Learn, students of all ages can explore completely different worlds and perform complex learning, discovery and problem-solving tasks that they wouldn't be able to do in a traditional learning environment or lab in a campus setting.

Michael Crow, ASU President

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Did you know that you can volunteer to work with the Foundation? It's true!

For instance, volunteers are needed for several events throughout the year:

Trinity Site Motor Coach Tour

Big Bang STEM Festival

Event Planning Team

& many other activities we participate in.

We can also connect you with the Museum, if you'd like to help there!

Curious?

Email info@spacehalloffame.org

Astronomy VR Lab (continued from page 3)

Students enjoyed the experience. The average rating on a scale of 1 to 5 (with 5 being excellent) was 4.4.

Engagement was higher in the Dreamscape Learn group than in the non-Dreamscape Learn group. Students in the Dreamscape Learn labs were observed chatting, working together and helping each other twice as often as those in the non-Dreamscape Learn lab. And the teaching assistants in the Dreamscape Learn lab were more likely to check in and answer questions.

The goal of the program at the Museum of Space History would be to bring this experience to middle school and high school students, particularly those in the Otero County area. As a pilot program, best practices developed in Alamogordo would be integrated to improve and expand it.

The Astronomy VR lab had originally been considered by the Alamogordo Public Schools but was decided against in favor of a different program. Community supporters of the AVR lab continue to be very optimistic and encouraging about continuing the effort to bring it to the area.

According to ISHFF President Johnny Powell, "We've had great encouragement from the Sacramento Mountain Foundation and other community leaders, along with positive interest from the Museum of Space History's leadership and education department."

The next steps in determining the feasibility of the AVR lab will be to take a small team from the Museum, ISHFF, and SMF to ASU for an in-person introduction to their existing programs.

Are you or someone you know, NOT a member of the International Space Hall of Fame Foundation?
Visit this website for help: www.spacehalloffame.org or scan the QR code below.



The Trinity Site Motor Coach Tour on Saturday, October 19, 2024, was an outstanding success! Three hundred guests and volunteers made the trek to the site onboard six motor coaches.

It was an early morning with staff and volunteers turning out as early as 4:30 am to set up for guest check-in. Followed by a fascinating drive to the site, each bus carrying a docent and assistant. The drive back was every bit as entertaining—featuring some of the worst sci fi movies ever made!

A huge shoutout to the staff of the Space Hall of Fame Gift Shop and Museum of Space History, and to the many talented and dedicated volunteers who helped make it happen. We couldn't do it without you!



The holidays are right around the corner and you can find OUT OF THIS WORLD gifts at the Space Hall Gift Shop! (Did you know they can ship too?)



Join us today and be
part of the future!

