



National Space Club & Foundation  
204 E Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
(P) 202-547-0060 (F) 202-547-6348  
[www.spaceclub.org](http://www.spaceclub.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 22, 2019

## **NATIONAL SPACE CLUB AND FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2019 GODDARD MEMORIAL DINNER KEYNOTE SCHOLAR**

Washington, DC - The National Space Club & Foundation proudly announces after a nation-wide search that Ms. Morgan Kopecky has won the National Space Club & Foundation Keynote Scholarship, securing her role as the keynote speaker during the Club's 62nd Annual Robert H. Goddard Memorial Dinner on Friday, March 22, 2019 at the Washington Hilton.



Ms. Kopecky is a senior at Woodbridge High School, a competitive public school in Irvine, California. She plans to study mechanical or electrical engineering for application in a space-related field at Stanford University in the fall of 2019. During all four years of high school, Ms. Kopecky has been a dedicated team leader of Irvine CubeSat, a team of students from five district high schools that have successfully assembled, launched, tracked and communicated with two mini-satellites in orbit. She enjoyed presenting the CubeSat communications system design to a team of NASA scientists and the district school board. Ms. Kopecky also enjoys research in the field of genetic engineering and has been working with a team of scientists at University of California-Irvine for the past eighteen months. Her additional interests include mentoring students in science fair competitions and

traveling to Sacramento to lobby for additional funding for high school STEM classes. More than anything else, she believes that communication is the future of STEM. Ms. Kopecky has a passion for communicating complex scientific concepts, as well as her own research, to non-STEM professionals and wants to use this passion to turn fear into curiosity to create change.

The Space Club is devoted to fostering excellence in space activity through interaction between industry and government, and through a continuing program of educational support. The National Space Club & Foundation Keynote Scholarship was created in 2012 and is provided to a high school senior, undergraduate or graduate student with the intention to pursue a career in STEM

fields. Applicants were required to complete an online application and submit a video on why he or she is inspired by space, with finalists undergoing live remarks and interviews. In addition to serving as the dinner keynote speaker at the Dr. Robert H. Goddard Memorial Dinner, Ms. Kopecky will receive a \$10,000 scholarship.

The Dr. Robert H. Goddard Memorial Dinner is the major event of the Washington space calendar. First celebrated in 1958, it is held each year near the anniversary of the first successful flight by Dr. Goddard of a liquid-fueled rocket. The dinner brings together nearly 2,000 members of the government, industry and educational space community and is considered the industry's premier gathering of space professionals.

In addition to the Keynote Scholarship, the Club presents several awards at the dinner to a number of outstanding individuals for accomplishments in spaceflight, engineering, science, management and education. The premier award, the Goddard Trophy, is presented to the individual, group or program deemed to have made the most significant contribution to U.S. leadership in rocketry and astronautics either as a lifetime of achievement or in the previous calendar year.

Individuals and organizations interested in attending the 62nd Annual Robert H. Goddard Memorial Dinner on Friday, March 22, 2019 at the Washington Hilton, may find more information on our website [www.spaceclub.org](http://www.spaceclub.org). For specific questions, please contact the Space Club at [info@spaceclub.org](mailto:info@spaceclub.org) or by calling 202-547-0060.

# # #

The National Space Club and Foundation is a 501c3 non-profit organization devoted to fostering excellence in space activity through interaction between industry and government, and through a continuing program of educational support. Youth Education is a premier focus of the Club, providing over \$160,000 in scholarships and internships each year. Awards are offered to recognize outstanding accomplishments in spaceflight, engineering, science, management, and education.

Follow us on Twitter: @SpaceClubNews; Instagram: @NationalSpaceClub; and Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NationalSpaceClub>.