Part of NASA’s Space Grant program, the Virginia Space Grant Consortium (VSGC) serves as a catalyst for the enhancement of STEM and aerospace-related education, workforce development and research in the Commonwealth.

Each seed NASA Space Grant dollar in Virginia has been leveraged by more than $5 of other funding in recent years. VSGC has worked with over 800 nonmember program partners from private and public sectors.

VSGC PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

Scholarships and Fellowships
- Undergraduate Research
- Graduate Research
- Community College
- STEM Bridge

Internships at NASA Centers and in Industry

Precollege Student Programs
- Online courses for credit
- Summer academies hosted by NASA centers and education partners
- STEM Exploration Saturday programs

Student-led flight projects including cubesats, high-altitude balloon launches, airborne and rocket programs

UAS, small satellite and cybersecurity programs

Geospatial professional development for precollege and higher education faculty

Faculty research and curriculum enhancement support

Precollege teacher professional development in STEM and using NASA resources

Informal education and public outreach

VSGC strives to increase diversity in the STEM pipeline through participation of underrepresented minorities, females and people with disabilities.

All programs are offered without fees.

RECOGNITION and AWARDS

Programs That Work Award from Virginia Math Science Coalition:
2019: Virginia Earth Systems Science Scholars (VESSS)
2015: Technology Exploration Saturdays
2015: Virginia Space Coast Scholars (VSCS)
2015: Building Leaders for Advancing Science and Technology (BLAST)
2014: Virginia Aerospace Science and Technology Scholars (VASTS)

Distinguished Geospatial Education Partner Award from the National GeoTECH Center (2015)

NASA Group Achievement Award for Langley Aerospace Research Student Scholars (LARSS) (2014)

NASA Robert H. Goddard Award for Virginia Space Coast Scholars (VSCS) program (2014)
Scholarships and Fellowships
More than $7.2M in scholarship and fellowship funding to 1,733 students attending universities and community colleges in Virginia. More than $6.5M of this funding directly supports STEM and aerospace-related research.

More than $338,000 in scholarships to students attending Virginia’s community colleges.

Internships and Workforce Development
VSGC has placed more than 6,500 students in paid internships with NASA, industry, or other federal labs. The Commonwealth STEM Industry Internship Program (CSIIP), managed by VSGC, connects Virginia students to paid internships with Virginia companies.

STEM Takes Flight allows community college students to gain research experiences at NASA Langley and NASA Wallops.

About 95% of VSGC-supported higher education students are pursuing STEM studies or employed in STEM careers.

K-12 Education
STEM Exploration Saturdays and STEM academies have impacted more than 4,300 middle school students and informed more than 2,300 parents about STEM and college preparation.

Building Leaders for Advancing Science and Technology (BLAST), a free residential program, has engaged 1,400 middle school students from underserved regions of Virginia in innovative hands-on STEM experience at member universities.

Virginia Aerospace Science and Technology Scholars (VASTS) has engaged 4,850 high school juniors and seniors statewide in an online course and Summer Academy programs at NASA Langley offering four college credits; 95% of Academy participants have reported pursuing college degrees in STEM disciplines.

Virginia Earth System Science Scholars (VESSS) has provided more than 600 Virginia high school juniors and seniors a free, engaging, online earth systems and environmental science course and residential summer academies at NASA Langley. Students can earn up to five college credits.

Virginia Space Coast Scholars (VSCS) has inspired 2017 high school sophomores through an online STEM learning experience and Summer Academy at NASA Wallops.

Pathways Flight Academies offers High School students a two-week residential pilot training program including groundschool through the solo flight.

Higher Education
Student-led flight projects, including high altitude ballooning, cubesat, airborne, UAS and rocketry programs, are key VSGC programs.

VSGC manages a national university design competition for the National Academies and the FAA seeking innovative solutions to air transportation problems.

VSGC manages Graduate Research Awards for the Airport Cooperative Research Program of the National Academies.

Faculty Development
New Investigator Program has provided $330,000 in seed funding to support 33 early career faculty to conduct STEM research of interest to NASA.

VSGC leads a statewide NSF-funded project in partnership with Virginia’s community colleges to support faculty professional development and curriculum in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS).

Teacher professional development in effective STEM teaching has been provided to more than 30,000 K-12 educators.

Other STEM Programs
VSGC has provided national leadership in Global Climate Change Education through NASA ESTEEM (Earth Systems, Technology, and Energy Education for MUREP-Minority University Research and Education Project), also in partnership with NSF and NOAA.

Dozens of informal education programs with museum, non-profit and media partners have impacted thousands of participants.

VSGC provided cybersecurity educational programs and resources through a grant from the National Institute of Standards and Technology.