The Interplanetary Initiative mission

The Interplanetary Initiative is a pan-university venture at Arizona State University that is pioneering a new model for integrated research and learning to investigate, communicate, and define our human space future. We connect the private sector, universities, and government, and we train students how to solve problems and create knowledge in teams as both leaders and collaborators.

Goals

Create a new functional organizational model that brings together all stakeholders in the space sector.

Use the organization to form interdisciplinary partnerships that identify and fulfill essential needs for space exploration.

Invent new interdisciplinary educational programs to create the workforce of the future.

Philanthropy fuels possibilities

Your support allows us to continue preparing the next generation of learners by equipping them with the thinking, making, and job-related skills necessary to push humanity forward, and supporting our collective human space future.

3 public educational workshops

16 public and professional events in 2019

20,000+ event attendees

335,000+ social media exposures

1,879 Followers

27,388 Impressions

The Interplanetary Initiative

Mailing Address
Interdisciplinary Science & Technology Building IV
781 S Terrace Rd ISTB4, room 795
Tempe, AZ 85287

Physical Address
Sun Devil Hall
461 E. Orange St
S Palm Walk, #160
Tempe, AZ 85281

February 2021

interplanetary.asu.edu

Fact sheet

Natural sciences
Leading global impact and innovative solutions
The Interplanetary Initiative seeks to answer the big questions and material needs related to human progress, especially in relation to our shared human space future. This pan-university initiative draws strength from unique interdisciplinary contributions of faculty, staff, and students.

Training Tomorrow’s Innovators and Leaders
This contemporary degree is designed to shift the paradigm of higher education by fostering adaptive, life-long learning for the next generation of thinkers, builders, and doers. Each semester students take courses in Thinking, Making, and traditional content areas designed to give them an edge in designing and implementing solutions to society’s biggest challenges.

In-demand skills embedded in the program
Modalities—Immersion and Online
Years—ASU’s first 3-year undergraduate degree
Innovative ‘Making’ pathways

Cultivating an inclusive environment
The Technological Leadership curriculum was designed to democratize access to the skills that employers seek in roles that drive forward our human space future. We are excited to work with The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to recruit a widely diverse student body. That includes students from a variety of backgrounds and interests. We measure our success by whom we include, and we are proud to train any student accepted to the University.

100% acceptance rate
6:1 student-to-faculty ratio in ‘Thinking’ courses
30 students in the inaugural class started Fall 2020
17 contributing schools and departments
14 affiliated faculty

Five Senses in Space
How do we galvanize public and private support for space exploration? In this project, researchers like Laura Gold seek new means of engaging the senses when learning about space. To do this these researchers have created AR and VR experiences complete with a smell engine that exposes learners to immersive learning experiences.

Space Advisory
What does the future of space governance look like to best support a prosperous and equitable future? As humans emerge into space human institutions will determine how to resolve legal disputes and conflict, among other concerns. The Space Advisory project seeks to determine solutions to space legal and policy issues as they relate to industry, government, and academia.

eLearning in Space
How will humans learn once they have left Earth’s surface? Mary Loder and astronaut-in-residence Dr. Cady Coleman are working with an interdisciplinary team to determine what humans may wish to learn and how they will learn it once those humans lose access to Earth’s knowledge repositories.