

The Interplanetary Initiative mission

We deploy new ways of building teams and solving problems, at scale, and across disciplines, sectors and cultures to shape an inclusive and sustainable future for our interplanetary society.

Humanity will be interplanetary



We envision an interplanetary future built upon new structures, systems and perspectives



A future built by diverse groups of people across disciplines, sectors and cultures



Who, together, shape an inclusive and sustainable pathway into space

By finding common cause in our space future, we can transform education and research

Goals

- Launch interdisciplinary and cross-sector projects and partnerships that advance our inclusive, interplanetary future
- Invent, implement and scale new interdisciplinary educational programs that train the problem-solvers of the future
- Design and implement a new functional organization that brings together all space sector stakeholders and attracts new audiences and participants.



ASU Interplanetary Initiative



@Interplanetary-Initiative-at-Arizona-State-University



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@ASUInterplanetary



@II_ASU

Philanthropy fuels possibilities

When you invest in the Interplanetary Initiative, you are advancing a new model for integrated research and learning that will help create bold futures in space and better societies on Earth.

[asufoundation.org/
interplanetaryinitiative](https://asufoundation.org/interplanetaryinitiative)



We need to create new processes for building teams that work more efficiently toward targeted goals; we need teams that are diverse and high-functioning; we need better, faster teaming of organizations, and more effective education for the problem-solvers of the future. To be who we should be for an interplanetary future, we need new processes.”

— **Lindy Elkins-Tanton**

Principal Investigator, NASA Psyche mission
ASU Vice President, ASU Interplanetary Initiative
Co-founder, Beagle Learning

interplanetary.asu.edu



Interplanetary Initiative

Fact sheet

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ASU The College
of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Arizona State University

Preparing students for real life

To be successful in our ever-changing world, students need to learn to think analytically, to work collaboratively, to learn continuously and to communicate compellingly. The Interplanetary Initiative's technological leadership degree program teaches these skills, as well as others that students need to solve tomorrow's most interesting and pressing problems in the fields of science and technology.

In this program, students learn complex problem solving, critical thinking, and leadership through an interdisciplinary blend of classroom learning and research. Creative, hands-on problem-solving, team-based collaboration, critical thinking, intensive internships, and fundamental skills in writing, math, and coding prepare graduates to succeed in a wide range of endeavors, from the tech or finance industry, to think-tanks or consulting firms, to earning an advanced degree.



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.



Advancing society by targeting the big questions

How do NASA missions successfully engage large and diverse teams of experts to work together toward a big common goal? Drawing from first hand experience leading large space science missions, our Big Questions Process is designed and proven to accelerate innovation with structures and incentives that support teams, knowledge goals, and tangible societal outcomes.



Creating a space makerspace for ambitious projects

The 6,800 square-foot Interplanetary Lab takes the makerspace approach and extends it to full lifecycle space-flight hardware and software development, including proposal, design, analysis, fabrication, integration, test and operation of space hardware and software. Projects come from groups as small as student clubs, and as large as faculty research missions and external corporate partner collaborations.



Launching a network of teams committed to taking action

OpenCitizen is an ambitious new approach for engaging learners, employees, and community partners in addressing community-based problems that matter to them. Using a facilitated, open-inquiry process, OpenCitizen teams identify local community needs, research them, and plan and follow through with meaningful action. Participants have the opportunity to earn ASU credit for skills mastered along the way.



All Technological Leadership classes have some form of hands-on education where you learn it yourself and you're doing it yourself and you have something you can take pride in. I don't have to study and learn the exact same things everybody else does. I feel very prepared because what I'm learning can be applied in the future very easily."

— Jacob Leach

Technological Leadership student

Centering student curiosity in the classroom

The heart of this major consists of **inquiry** and **making** classes taken each semester.

- In inquiry classes, students explore big questions in a collaborative research setting. Examples include, "What will the moon look like after human settlement?" and "What is the future of cars?"
- In making classes, students engage in hands-on projects using software and lab tools to prototype devices, design new systems or craft business solutions.



What I've learned is good for finding a career and it's also good life skills which is very valuable and something I don't normally learn in most classrooms."

Parker Cohensitt

first Technological Leadership, B.S. graduate

