



Women in Aerospace

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August 28, 2018

THE 33rd WOMEN IN AEROSPACE AWARDS HONORS FIVE EXCEPTIONAL WOMEN INCLUDING LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT WINNER, FORMER SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE DEBORAH LEE JAMES

Washington, D.C. – Women in Aerospace (WIA), a leading professional organization dedicated to expanding women's opportunities for leadership, education and visibility in the aerospace community, is proud to honor five remarkable women for their contributions to the aerospace industry and to the advancement of women in the field. These women will be honored at the 33rd Annual WIA Awards Dinner and Ceremony with a reception and dinner to be held on Thursday, November 1, 2018 at the Ritz Carlton Pentagon City Hotel in Arlington, VA.

The WIA Awards celebrate women's professional excellence in aerospace, annually recognizing female leaders who have made outstanding contributions to the aerospace community.

The 2018 Women in Aerospace Award recipients are:

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: Dr. Jessica Koehne, NASA, Moffett Field, CA, for her work developing nano-bio sensors for space applications and mentoring next generation scientists and engineers.

AEROSPACE AWARENESS AWARD: Dr. Sandra H. Magnus, Arlington, TX, in recognition of her work raising awareness of STEM and aerospace to diverse, global audiences, and engaging students in aerospace to grow the next generation workforce.

INITIATIVE, INSPIRATION, IMPACT AWARD: Dr. Natalya Bailey, Accion Systems, Boston, MA, for her work in developing innovative, propulsion technology and her passion for being an advocate and mentor for youth in STEM education.



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LEADERSHIP AWARD: Barbara J. BJ Smith, SAIC, Oklahoma City, OK, is recognized for her excellence at FAA as a pioneer in her field and as a mentor and leader for women in Air Traffic Control.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: The Honorable Deborah Lee James, 23rd Secretary of the Air Force, Dunn Loring, VA, in recognition of her significant contributions to aerospace during her 36 year career and for her lifelong commitment to the advancement of women in aerospace.

Shelli Brunswick, Chair of Women in Aerospace, said: "Candidates for these awards are nominated by a peer and undergo vigorous vetting. This year, over 65 women were nominated across the award categories. Each of these women serve as an inspiration to our community and this year we are deeply honored to recognize the Honorable Deborah Lee James with our most prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award. As a pioneer and role model for women, James has broken gender barriers throughout her illustrious career while dedicating her entire life to the defense and aerospace community of the United States."

As part of the Awards Ceremony, the Women in Aerospace Foundation will also present four merit-based scholarships to promising young women who will serve as the next generation of female leaders in the aerospace industry.

This year's scholarships go to:

Madeline Koldos, University of Southern California

Katherine Melbourne, Yale University

Julia Mihaylov, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Esther Putman, University of Kentucky

Women in Aerospace (WIA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding women's opportunities for leadership and to increasing their visibility within the aerospace community.

To learn more about WIA, visit: www.womeninaerospace.org.

Individuals and organizations interested in participating in the awards dinner on November 1, 2018, at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Arlington VA, should register online at www.womeninaerospace.org or by calling 202-547-0229 for more information.



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WIA anticipates selling out tables for this event and encourages interested parties to purchase tables early to be sure space is available. Sponsorship opportunities also available. [Register Here.](#)

For more information, visit the WIA website at womeninaerospace.org
or call our Headquarters at (202) 547-0229.

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