



# Reach for the Stars

On Monday, October 23, 2023, The Nevada Moonshot Flight Crew, an initiative of the Nevada Afterschool Network (NAN), hosted the inaugural Reach for the Stars event at the Illuminarium Las Vegas. The event aimed to highlight the significance of afterschool STEM programs, seek partnerships, and celebrate the achievements of the first Nevada Flight Crew cohort, a group of youth from across the state of Nevada who are motivated to reimagine who can engineer, who can build, and who can make. These individuals were selected because of their engagement in afterschool programs and passion for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).



A total of 55 attendees from different organizations, municipalities, and the community attended the event. Nevada state representatives Senator Carrie Buck, Assemblywoman

Clara Thomas, a representative from Congresswoman Susie Lee's office and a representative from Senator Jacky Rosen's office were also present at the event. Throughout the night, attendees had the opportunity to network with one another and the Flight Crew, enjoy hors d'oeuvres, and view the space-themed visual presentation in the immersive room at the Illuminarium.



The event kicked off with a brief introduction about NAN and Nevada Flight Crew, along with a video from Senator Jacky Rosen, who commended the excellent work of the Flight Crew. The keynote speaker, Dr. Alexandra Lockwood from N.A.S.A., shared her journey as a woman in STEM and discussed her work on the James Webb

Space Telescope images. Dr. Lockwood also moderated a panel with Flight Crew members Andrea, Phoenix, and Zoe to discuss their STEM journeys thus far.

Following the keynote, Flight Crew members Caitlin and Siana moderated a panel discussion with Dr. Linda Johnson McClinton, Dr. Michelle B. Lee, and Dr. George Rhee. They discuss the significance of STEM in afterschool programs, the importance of diversity in the STEM field, members did an excellent job utilizing the tools they have learned over the last several months of the program using youth voice. At the end of the event, the Flight Crew members were presented with certificates of recognition from Governor Joe Lombardo, Senator Jacky Rosen, and Senator Catherine Cortez Masto.

The Nevada Moonshot Flight Crew is a critical program that provides youth with training and opportunity to have their voice heard about their individual STEM paths which can inspire other youth and professionals to become engaged in the STEM field. In 2024, NAN will be continuing the NV Flight Crew program with a new cohort while engaging the first cohort as NV Flight Crew Alumni.

