

NEWS RELEASE



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Distinguished Leaders Join Manned Space Flight Education Foundation Board

HOUSTON, Feb 8, 2016 – Leaders in aerospace, energy, technology, financial management, real estate and hospitality joined the [Manned Space Flight Education Foundation board of directors](#) on the heels of the nonprofit setting a new record for annual attendance in 2015.

“This is an exciting time for these distinguished, innovative business professionals to join the board of directors,” said Richard E. Allen Jr., president of the [Manned Space Flight Education Foundation](#) and CEO of [Space Center Houston](#). “These prominent, results-driven leaders will help strengthen the nonprofit as we continue to move forward with substantial growth.”

The new members of foundation board of directors are: Bob Cavnar, BG Holdings LLC; John Elbon, The Boeing Company; Lauri Hansen, NASA Johnson Space Center; Dimitris Lagoudas, PhD, Texas A&M University; Stewart Morris Jr., Stewart Information Services Corp.; Dennis Murphree, Murphree Venture Partners; Andrew Saul, Accenture; Melanie Saunders, JD, NASA Johnson Space Center; Kirk Shireman, NASA Johnson Space Center; and Dawn Ullrich, JD, Houston First Corp.

Space Center Houston continues to achieve phenomenal growth and draw people from all over the world as Houston’s No. 1 destination for international visitors. The center draws nearly 1 million visitors annually and soon will reach 18 million visitors since opening in 1992. Eighty-two percent of its 2015 visitors came from outside of the greater Houston area.

Its newest exhibit, [Independence Plaza](#) presented by Boeing, is expected to draw people from all over the world to see the one-of-a-kind, international landmark featuring the first shuttle carrier aircraft, NASA 905, and the high-fidelity shuttle replica Independence. The eight-story multiple-exhibit complex is the biggest project for the nonprofit since the center opening. For more information about Space Center Houston, visit spacecenter.org.

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The Manned Space Flight Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit space museum with an extensive science education program. The cornerstone of its science education mission is Space Center Houston, which USA Today called “The Big Draw” in the greater Houston area with nearly 1 million visitors annually and a \$73 million annual economic impact on the greater Houston area. Space Center Houston is Houston’s first and only Smithsonian Affiliate and the Official Visitor Center of NASA Johnson Space Center. The center draws more than 100,000 teachers and students annually from around the world. For more information, go to www.spacecenter.org.

SOURCE: Manned Space Flight Education Foundation

