ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

EXPERIMENT JUDGES

Nia Allen
Jermaine Brinson
Samantha Castro
Furqan Chiragh
Megan Fisher
Mariam Florentine
Nikisa George
Albert Kodua
Joseph Loyd
Maddie Machovec
Hugh McLaughlin
Reggie McNeill
Chadd Miller
Clyde Moseberry
Ingrid Paluch
Daniel Robey
Daniel Ruiz
George Vardaxis
Naaman (Mike) Simpson
Alex Taylor
Andrew Wood

ESSAY JUDGES

Lea Carter
Nikisa George
Jenny Oliveira
Scott Oliveira
Ingrid Paluch

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Megan Fisher
Debbi Johnson
Maddie Machovec
Anita Maginnis
Michelle Paine
Edelina Rose
Mary Sollimo
Ann Marie Stulik

PLANNING COMMITTEE

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Nikisa George (Co-Chair)
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Chadd Miller
Ann Marie Stulik

THANK YOU

Matt Ferringer
Alli Taylor
Chadd Miller
Aerospace Volunteers
Conference Services
Corporate Communications
Facilities Department
Flik Catering
Media Relations
Media Services
The Orbiter

49TH ANNUAL ROBERT H. HERNDON MEMORIAL SCIENCE COMPETITION

for Middle & High School Students

MAY 21, 2026

COSMIC COLLABORATION

AEROSPACE

ROBERT H. HERNDON

Robert Herndon was a leader—a man who set precedents, blazed trails, and taught others. He was a man who made progress and history.

Mr. Herndon was an engineer at North American Aviation when the technological upheaval of supersonic flight was taking place in aeronautics. Americans were mastering rocketry, which would eventually take them to the moon. During his career at North American, Mr. Herndon was included in a *LIFE* magazine story about successful young black men.

Mr. Herndon joined The Aerospace Corporation in 1961 as a structural engineer, later moving to systems management and positions of increasing responsibility. As group director of the Advanced Mission Analysis Directorate, he was responsible for performing Aerospace systems studies for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

At the time of his death, in 1976, his career was still unfolding, and his true potential had not yet been realized.

Mr. Herndon was a compassionate human being who avoided the isolation of arrogance. The essence of his greatness was his humility. Throughout his career, he satisfied his great need to share with others his love, his insights, his wit and intelligence, and his view of the world.

The Aerospace Corporation is proud to honor Mr. Herndon for his outstanding and significant contributions as a scientist, engineer, and humanitarian.

49TH ANNUAL ROBERT H. HERNDON MEMORIAL SCIENCE COMPETITION
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MAY 21, 2026 | AGENDA

8:30 – 9:30 A.M.	Visitor Center Gambit	Visitor Center Check-In Experiment Set-Up Breakfast
9:30 – 10:00 A.M.	Gambit	Welcome & Introduction to Aerospace **Speaker: Jenny Oliveira** Co-Chair, Herndon Science Competition
10:00 – 11:30 A.M.	UC & LC	Experiment Judging
11:30 – 11:45 A.M.	UC & LC	Break
11:45 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.	Gambit	Lunch Talk on Human Exploration and Future Lunar Moon Base Presentation **Speaker: Alli Taylor**, Associate Systems Director, Human Spaceflight Programs, Engineering Program Management and Systems Engineering
12:15 – 12:45 P.M.	Gambit	Orbital Debris Presentation **Speaker: Chadd Miller** Senior Member of Technical Staff, Space Object Risk Department
12:45 – 1:00 P.M.	Gambit	Transition to Awards Ceremony
1:00 – 1:05 P.M.	Gambit	Introduction of the Keynote Speaker by **Jenny Oliveira**
1:00 – 1:20 P.M.	Gambit	**Keynote Speaker: Dr. Matthew Ferringer** General Manager, Digital Innovation Division
1:20 – 1:55 P.M.	Gambit	Awards Ceremony
1:55 – 2:00 P.M.	Gambit	Closing Remarks **Speaker: Dr. Nikisa George** Co-Chair, Herndon Science Competition