A discussion with a group of all-male-non-BIPOC in the aerospace industry about ways they practice allyship.

RSVP and submit questions to the panelists at tiny.cc/woaaally:
The Purpose of the Upcoming WoAA Allyship Panel

There were many long discussions between the WoAA D&I group and the WoAA leadership with a spectral team talking through this panel and understanding it's implications. We knew we might get some blowback considering our choice to highlight folks who are in the majority in their organizations, but we wanted to push back on the unfortunately all too common idea that diversity isn't a problem for white men. As Gen. Bolden mentioned in our previous anti-racism panel, it is not on the underrepresented groups to solve, it is on those in the majority to solve these problems.

Our intent for this panel is to reach people who find themselves in a situation where they are not in a marginalized group and hold them accountable in addressing this responsibility.

Going forward, we have many events planned highlighting underrepresented groups similar to our first panel event. We wanted to take this opportunity to engage allies of underrepresented groups and open the conversation on how non-marginalized people can support change around them.
Dr. Camille W Alleyne

A rocket designer, space scientist, internationally-acclaimed speaker, trailblazer and world leader, Dr. Camille Wardrop Alleyne is a force to be reckoned with. She has spent her 25-year career advancing the areas of aerospace and space technology development, including space vehicle design and test and space research. In the last few years, she has emerged as an expert in the areas of space, science and technology application for sustainable global development. Dr. Alleyne currently serves as the Deputy Manager for the Commercial Lunar Payload Services at NASA Johnson Space Center where she develops the strategy and manages the execution of NASA's primary mission to the return to the Moon, first with US commercial companies. Prior to that she served as the Assistant Deputy Associate Administrator for Programs in the Science Mission Directorate at NASA Headquarters where she provided technical and executive leadership on NASA's planetary, earth, heliophysics and astrophysics science missions.

Dr. Alleyne has a deep commitment to being of service and making a difference in the lives of young people all across the world, and as a result, has been and continues to be in a unique position to create immense change through her expertise in STEM, advocacy for global education, especially with regards to girls. She is a leading advocate for creating the next generation of female scientists, engineers, technologist and explorers - work she does through her Brightest Stars Foundation.
Lt. Gen. Larry James was appointed Deputy Director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in August 2013. At JPL he is the Laboratory’s Chief Operating Officer responsible to the Director for the day-to-day management of JPL's resources and activities. This includes managing the Laboratory's solar system exploration, Mars, astronomy, physics, Earth science, interplanetary network programs, and all business operations. These activities employ 6000 scientists, engineers, technicians, and business support personnel, generating $2.6 billion in annual revenues.

Prior to his retirement from the Air Force and his appointment as JPL Deputy Director, Lt. Gen. James was the Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance at the Pentagon. He was responsible to the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force for policy formulation, planning, evaluation, oversight, and leadership of Air Force intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities and led more than 20,000 Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance officers, enlisted and civilians across the Air Force ISR Enterprise.

Lt. Gen. James received his Bachelor of Science in Astronautical Engineering (1978) from the US Air Force Academy (Distinguished Graduate) and his Master of Science in Aeronautics and Astronautics (1983) from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge MA. He was also a Draper Fellow at the Charles Stark Draper Laboratory in Cambridge MA.

James is a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and a member of the International Academy of Astronautics.
Rob Meyerson is the Executive Producer of ASCEND and leads the Guiding Coalition. He is the founder and CEO of Delalune Space, a management consulting company focused on aerospace, mobility and technology sectors. Rob is the former president of Blue Origin.

Rob oversaw the steady growth of Blue Origin from 2003 to 2018, building the company from its founding into a more than 1500-person organization. Under Rob's leadership, Blue Origin developed the New Shepard system for suborbital human and research flights, the BE-3 LOX/LH2 rocket engine, the BE-4 LOX/LNG rocket engine, the New Glenn launch vehicle and its vision for humanity in space; including the Blue Moon lunar lander, human spacecraft, habitats and in-space tugs. During this time, Rob oversaw Blue's growth in staff (10 to 1500+), budget ($10M to $1B) and facilities (1 site to 6, 50K to 1m+ sq ft).

Prior to joining Blue, Rob was a Senior Program Manager as Kistler Aerospace. Rob began his career as an aerodynamicist at NASA's Johnson Space Center (JSC). Rob earned a B.S. in aerospace engineering from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in industrial engineering from the University of Houston. He is an AIAA Fellow, a Trustee of the Museum of Flight in Seattle and a member of the University of Michigan College of Engineering Leadership Advisory Board. Rob was awarded the Space Flight Award by the American Astronautical Society in 2017 for his accomplishments at Blue Origin.
William Pomerantz is Vice President for Special Projects and Employee #001 at Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Orbit, the innovative launch company for small satellites.

In addition to being a co-founder of Brooke Owens Fellowship, Will also serves as the Chair of the Board of Advisors of SEDS-USA, the world's largest student space organization. He is a member of the Editorial Board of ROOM, a Space Journal, and a mentor for TechStars, the world's largest start-up accelerator network. Will is a graduate of Harvard, the NASA Academy, and the International Space University. He has also worked at Virgin Galactic, the XPRIZE Foundation, Brown University, the Futron Corporation, and the United Nations, among others. In 2004, Will co-founded and served as Editor-in-Chief of SpaceAlumni.com, an early social network for space professionals. He has served on two US Federal Aviation Administration's Commercial Space Transportation Advisory committee and the National Academies of Science and Engineering's Committee on Building a Better NASA Workforce.

Will is a working father and the proud husband of Diana Trujillo, the Deputy of Surface Phase Lead for NASA'a Mars 2020 mission at the JPL.
Dr. Matt Marcus is a Space Systems and Robotics Engineer at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. He is currently working on robotics development for the On-orbit Servicing, Assembly, and Manufacturing 1 (OSAM-1) demonstration mission. He recently completed his PhD in Aerospace Engineering with a concentration in space systems at the University of Maryland, College Park, focusing on orbital debris removal and use of artificial intelligence to aid early concept space mission design. Matt has also conducted several academic mission design studies, focusing primarily on small bodies missions for planetary science and planetary defense.

Matt has been involved in UMD's Women in Aeronautics and Astronautics organization since 2017, as well as WoAA since the group's incorporation in early 2019. He currently serves as the International Technical Development Subcommittee Chair, overseeing WoAA's development of technical workshops, tutorials, panels, and conference activities, as well as advising on the creation of professional chapters.
Carson Coursey is a third-year aerospace engineering undergraduate student at the Georgia Institute of Technology, where he is also an undergraduate teaching assistant in the Aerospace Machine Shop, an undergraduate research assistant in the Ben T. Zinn Combustion Lab, co-president of the Georgia Tech Experimental Rocketry team, an officer in the Aero Maker Space, a founding ambassador of the Georgia Outreach Team for Space, and a student representative on the School of Aerospace Engineering Student Advisory Council.

In the past, Carson has worked on hypersonic solid rocket motors at Northrop Grumman as an engineering intern and represented the Georgia Space Grant Consortium in Washington, DC. Carson is extremely passionate about taking humankind to great heights, both figuratively and literally, through his work in the aerospace field.