

ORBITER NEWS

News, announcements, and more.

Aerospace Celebrates National Veterans and Military Families Month

As part of its commitment to advancing a culture of trust and inclusivity and effecting meaningful change within the workplace and greater community, Aerospace is recognizing and saluting the bravery and dedication of its veterans, service members and their families.

Throughout November, Aerospace Military Veterans (AMV) is celebrating National Veterans and Military Families Month with a variety of activities and events that are open to all. As one of many Employee Resource Groups promoting cultural awareness and community outreach, AMV aims to foster recognition of U.S. military services, and the men and women who honorably served therein throughout this nation's history.



“Aerospace has many team members who have directly served in our armed forces, and all Aerospace employees serve through our direct support to the Department of Defense and Intelligence Community,” said Lina Cashin, President of AMV. “AMV honors and supports our veterans by hosting time-honored military traditions, recognizing and leveraging Aerospace’s veteran employees’ experiences, and advocating for reservist and guard benefits for those employees who are still serving.”

Established by the Armed Services YMCA in 1996, National Veterans and Military Families Month is recognized with a yearly proclamation signed by the President.

Service Member Tribute Events

From Nov. 6 - 10, AMV is hosting the Table for One event in Colorado Springs, El Segundo, Albuquerque, Huntsville and Chantilly, during which an empty table covered in a white tablecloth will be displayed to

remind viewers of fallen, missing, or imprisoned U.S. military service members, with an empty chair representing the individual whose seat at the table remains unclaimed.

On Nov. 7, AMV will host a fireside chat with Jay Santee, Vice President of Defense Systems Group. Santee, who is the Executive Sponsor and a longtime supporter of AMV, will be retiring at the end of the year. During the event, he will reflect upon his work and accomplishments at Aerospace, and share insights gained over the span of his career. The fireside chat will be held in person at COS-1 in Colorado Springs and can be attended virtually on Microsoft Teams.

“Veterans willingly took an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. For those that are called to this service, it is their “why” for everything they do,” said Santee. “Military families also serve and sacrifice. They too deserve to be recognized and celebrated for their contribution to our security and way of life.”

Another event planned for this month is AMV’s selection of three Chantilly-area military children in the Project USO Elf program to receive holiday gifts from their personal wish lists.

On Dec. 16, AMV will again participate in Wreaths Across America (WAA) at locations across the country. In Virginia, Aerospace volunteers will help with wreath distribution at Arlington National Cemetery to help remember and honor those who have passed and teach future generations of the service and sacrifice of the United States military. Employees can participate at various locations by finding a local wreath laying event on the WAA website, or by purchasing or donating wreaths through WAA.

Supporting the Needs of Our Service Members

Aerospace employees are encouraged to let the nation’s service members, their families and veterans know how much their selflessness, courage, service and sacrifices are appreciated by contributing to AMV’s National Veterans & Military Families Month giving opportunity. Created in partnership with Aerospace Cares, donations to this giving opportunity are split evenly amongst selected organizations supporting our military, veterans and their families.

“If not for these individuals, we would not have the rights, abilities and freedom to share opinions and live freely,” said Debbi Johnson, Secretary of AMV. “That’s why it’s so important to support our veterans and military families, and to express our gratitude for their service.”

The Aerospace Military Veterans (AMV) is an Aerospace Employee Resource Group (ERG). Membership and participation in all ERGs are open to all employees.



Every year, WAA volunteers and supporters gather to remember, honor and teach at locations in all 50 states, at sea and abroad.

ACIA Celebrates Native American Heritage Month at Aerospace

Aerospace's inclusive culture fosters an environment that acknowledges and respects the individual and community identities of its people. This November, Aerospace is celebrating Native American Heritage Month with leadership from the Aerospace Council for Indigenous Americans (ACIA). In line with this year's ACIA theme, Gifts of Our Ancestors: Celebrating Indigenous Knowledge and Cultures, ACIA is hosting various events and



experiences for all employees to learn more about the rich culture and traditions of the Indigenous American community. All Aerospace employees are welcome for the month's events, which will center around honoring the achievements of the Indigenous Peoples. These events include a keynote speaker, a community Powwow event and a month-long giving campaign.

"We are looking forward to this month where Aerospace is coming together to celebrate and recognize our heritage and the importance of the Indigenous People in the Americas," said Tessa Rodriguez, President of ACIA.

Heritage Month Outside of Aerospace

Heritage months are a time to reflect on the past and present influences different communities have on our lives today. Since the passing of the first Presidential proclamation to establish a National American Indian Heritage Month in 1990, the President provides a proclamation to honor Indigenous Peoples' contribution to the nation during the month of November. Celebrating Native American heritage is important to creating a vibrant culture of diverse perspectives and inclusion.

Supporting Indigenous Accomplishments

ACIA continues to help support the communities of Indigenous People within and in conjunction with Aerospace. Their work is important to promote awareness and appreciation for the accomplishments of Indigenous People. For example, ACIA recently participated in the



Aerospace found value in connecting with the Indigenous community at AISES.

American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) Conference where they introduced students to Aerospace and connected with indigenous students interested in STEM careers.

“Attending the AISES event was a great way for us to reach out to Indigenous People interested in working in STEM fields,” said Lauresa Stillwell, Vice President of ACIA. “We need to have Indigenous People at Aerospace because every culture, every individual brings something new, fresh, a different point of view, and it’s the culmination of all those points of view that help us to be a better company.”

How to Get Involved

To get involved with the heritage month, employees can donate to the [giving campaign](#) throughout November. All donations will be split between the Native Forward Scholarship Fund and the First Nations Development Institute. To start the month off, ACIA is also organizing an Aerospace group to visit the Los Angeles Pow Wow 2023 event on Nov. 4 where they will connect with food, music and dance from various tribes. In addition to these two events, ACIA has also organized a keynote speaker for Nov. 30 to discuss the science of Indigenous American foods. Dr. Lois Ellen Frank is a professional chef, historian and dedicated academic who will speak about the impact Indigenous American scientific food processes, specifically a process called “nixtamalization”, have on the meals enjoyed by millions today.

“That topic is a really perfect thing for Aerospace,” said Rodriguez. “It’s a really good balance of honoring our ancestors and the knowledge that our ancestors had and the science that they used.”



Beyond heritage month, ACIA provides resources and events throughout the year, such as the recent talk given by Walter Sturrock called “Polar Opposites: Inuit and Scottish cousins living worlds apart discover each other”.

“ACIA is open to anyone and everyone who is indigenous or isn’t indigenous, has appreciation or wants to learn more about indigenous cultures,” said Rodriguez. “We’re really excited for everyone to join us and for this month to be an opportunity for everyone honor and recognize Indigenous Peoples.”

The Aerospace Council for Indigenous Americans (ACIA) is an Aerospace employee resource group (ERG). Membership and participation in all ERGs are open to all employees, regardless of identity.

Photo Gallery: Aerospace Employees Show Off Their Halloween Spirit

November 01, 2023

On Halloween, Aerospace employees got into the spirit and showed off their spooktacular costumes. Check out the gallery below, which includes submissions from employees across Aerospace as well as costumed folks professionally captured photos by CorpComm's Photo Team. Thank you to everyone who participated. If you have photos you'd like to share in the gallery, please email them to Orbiter@aero.org.



These images (click images to enlarge), along with Halloween festivities photos submitted from other locations, will also be shared to Aerospace's Instagram and Facebook.

Let us know which costumes (and faces) you recognize in the comments below!



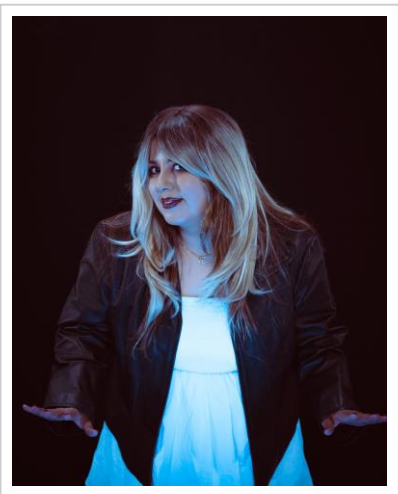
















Harnessing the Collective Power of One Good Thing

October 30, 2023

Giving back to the community and inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers is one of the great strengths of Aerospace's culture and the holiday season is a time when the spirit of generosity at Aerospace really shines through. This holiday season, employees have many opportunities to give back, even by doing just One Good Thing and making a big difference together.

"Giving back is an integral part of every strong culture, because it means caring for and belonging to a community," said Kevin Bell, Senior Vice President of ETG. "Communities can be at the family, neighborhood, corporate, or even global levels, but in all cases, they are made up of people coming together and caring for one another. It is why commitment to our people is a core value at Aerospace."



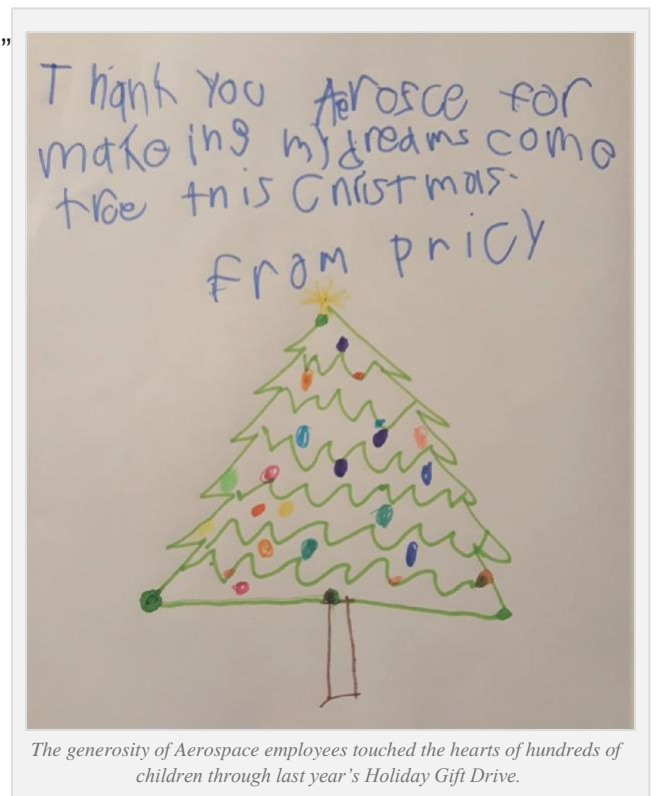
With a wide variety of volunteer and giving opportunities, there's a way for everyone to contribute to making a greater impact. This year, the One Good Thing campaign aims to collectively accomplish 5,000 good things during the holiday season. By combining the diverse talents, interests and efforts of employees, Aerospace can touch the lives of so many in need across the country.

"The One Good Thing campaign serves as a reminder of how important it is to connect with and care for our communities," said Bell. "One Good Thing is contagious and has the power to create many good things."

Giving Together

Aerospace's Annual Gift Drive is back again with a variety of ways to support kids and families in need. Employees can donate a single gift to brighten a child's day or even sponsor a child by buying all the items on their list. There is also an option to give monetarily, helping purchase gifts to ensure all participating children will have something to unwrap this holiday season.

"It's very special to these children," said Xavier Galindo, a member of the Supply Chain team. Galindo has chaired the El Segundo gift drive since 1998. "Many of these children have no family support, meaning no gifts for the holidays. All we're doing is making sure they get that feeling we all got as kids when we woke up Christmas morning and there



The generosity of Aerospace employees touched the hearts of hundreds of children through last year's Holiday Gift Drive.

were gifts under the tree with our name on it. Better yet, it was something you wished for. It brings kids joy that we listened to them and made their holidays brighter.”

On Dec. 16, Aerospace Military Veterans (AMV) will once again be participating in Wreaths Across America (WAA) at locations across the country. In Virginia, Aerospace volunteers will help with wreath distribution and in other ways at Arlington National Cemetery as a part of AMV’s annual involvement. By placing wreaths, volunteers help remember and honor those who have passed and teach future generations of the service and sacrifice of the United States military. Employees can participate at various locations by finding a local wreath laying event on the WAA website, or by purchasing or donating wreaths through WAA. For more information, employees can also reach out to AMV.

Employees can track volunteer hours through Aerospace Cares. Volunteers who log their hours may also be randomly selected as the volunteer of the month and have their generosity showcased.

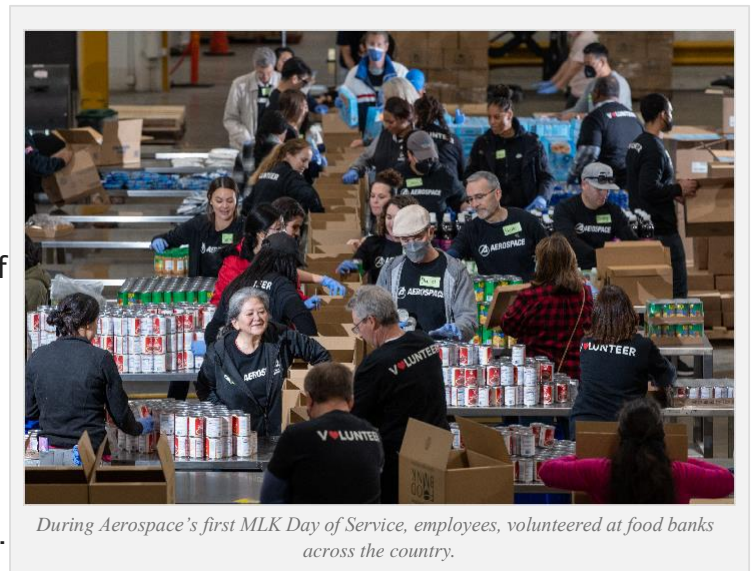


Giving Continues

Another way employees can do One Good Thing is to sign up for the Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) National Day of Service in Jan. 2024. Aerospace volunteers are planning activities in their local communities, focusing on food insecurity in America, where they will be joined colleagues and executive leadership. Reach out to cares@aero.org if you would like to get involved.

“After the success of last year’s event, we would love to come back even stronger for our second National Day of Service for MLK Day,” said Lianne McGinley, Associate Director of Corporate Social Responsibility.

“We would love to have more locations getting involved and doing more good work in our communities to make a significant impact to fight food insecurity in America.”



Throughout the year, Aerospace Cares also supports a variety of mentorship, outreach and scholarship programs and is always looking for new volunteers eager to get involved. Through a myriad of virtual and in-person opportunities like the Science Olympiad Urban Schools Initiative and Los Angeles Team Mentoring, employees can share their wisdom and experience to guide students as they explore STEM.

An information session is available on Nov. 8, where employees can learn more about ways to get involved

in the One Good Thing campaign.

“It’s a beautiful thing when you give random acts of kindness to someone you don’t know and you don’t expect anything in return,” said Galindo. “What’s better than putting a big smile on someone’s face and bringing joy to their lives?”

Honoring a Trailblazer with ALMA’s Inaugural Spirit of Excellence Award

October 26, 2023

Aerospace’s vibrant culture of giving back to the community would not be possible without the dedication of employees across the corporation serving as the driving force to create impact where they work and live.

Recognizing their exceptional contributions, leadership, and achievements acknowledges their own personal dedication and the supportive environment around them. The Aerospace Latino Members Association (ALMA) established the ALMA Spirit of Excellence Award to celebrate the impact commitment of the leaders in their community. Each year, the award will recognize one employee who is truly leading from the front and inspiring others along the way. Last week, ALMA presented the inaugural ALMA Spirit of Excellence Award to Delilah Nuñez.



The Aerospace Latino Members Association (ALMA) presented Delilah Nuñez with the first-ever ALMA Spirit of Excellence Award.

“I want to take a moment to express my gratitude not only to ALMA and the role that it plays, but to all of our Employee Resource Groups (ERGs), as they recognize amazing individuals that are critical to the success of this corporation,” said Steve Isakowitz, President and CEO of Aerospace. “This is a great chance to bring together communities and to share with each other and the things that make us unique.”

Nuñez, who is a Systems Director in the Space Development Division, was selected for her technical excellence, dedication to mentoring, giving back to the community, and embodying the true spirit of ALMA.

History in the Making

Aerospace employees gathered nationwide in person and virtually for the celebration, which included remarks from senior leadership and other speakers who shared Nuñez's impact. Isakowitz, who attended in person in El Segundo, spoke about the importance of openly acknowledging and celebrating achievements.

ALMA has been an integral part of Aerospace's culture – fostering diversity, encouraging collaboration, empowering innovation, and making a difference in the lives of others.

"'Alma' means spirit or soul in Spanish," said Edelina Rose, National President of ALMA. "Our goal is to leverage this group to learn about each other's unique qualities and share about each other's cultures, all for the betterment of the company and each other."

Nuñez began her career at Aerospace in 1993 as an intern before joining the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program Office. Throughout her career she has utilized her knowledge and expertise across a variety of programs and positions including in the Engineering Technology Group. Beyond her passion for her work, Nuñez is also dedicated to supporting diversity and served as ALMA's National President in 2017. For her efforts and achievements to increase diversity and including in the workplace and in her community, she was recognized by Isakowitz with the Diversity and Inclusion Award in 2017. Her efforts have also received national recognition as she was presented with the Community Service in Industry Award at the 2019 Woman of Color Conference.

"I had read somewhere once that if you are lucky enough to be successful, then it is your responsibility to send that elevator back down to bring others back up," said Nuñez. "I think that's the other driver [of my motivation], is that when I see an opportunity, whether it's a student or even another colleague or friend, [I do what I can] to ensure that they have some guidance or support."

Nuñez is an alumna of the California State University, Long Beach (CSULB), where she received a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering and a Master of Business Administration with specialization in Information Systems. She has dedicated herself to inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers through giving back at her alma mater.

In addition to mentoring and working with the Mexican American Engineering Science Student Chapter at CSULB, she has also volunteered as a panelist and speaker at the 2023 CSULB Beach Women in Engineering event, where she talked about the work she



Aerospace President and CEO Steve Isakowitz also spoke about the significance of this inaugural event and ALMA's impact on Aerospace.



Nuñez was selected for her commitment to shaping the future both at Aerospace and in her community.

does at Aerospace with the goal of inspiring women, especially underrepresented minorities, to join STEM fields.

“I also want to dedicate this award to the young people who we all serve, who inspire us about our future and make us care about our legacy,” said Nuñez. “I’m truly thrilled and honored to be here receiving this inaugural ALMA Spirit of Excellence Award. It is yet another reminder that ‘si se puede,’— yes, we can. If this award can inspire others to do the same and continue that momentum, imagine what we all can accomplish together for a better tomorrow and beyond. You all have given me an opportunity and support to live my passion. For that, I am truly grateful, and I thank you.”

Making an Impact on Others

Among the speakers were Lianne McGinley, Associate Director of Corporate Social Responsibility, who has worked with Nuñez during numerous community and STEM outreach events. McGinley spoke about Nuñez’s exceptional character, positivity, unparalleled drive and dedication to giving back to others.

“Delilah has left an indelible mark, inspiring and shaping the future. Delilah embodies the essence of ALMA and the award of excellence, not only through her outstanding professional achievements, but through her generous and gracious contributions of time and mentorship,” said McGinley. “She’s become a role model for countless individuals, proving that determination, guidance, and passion can elevate not only individuals, but an entire community. Delilah Nuñez is a shining star, a trailblazer, a true embodiment of the ALMA Spirit of Excellence Award, and your dedication to empowering the next generation and advancing Aerospace’s frontier is important inspiration to all of us.”

Congratulations Delilah Nuñez!

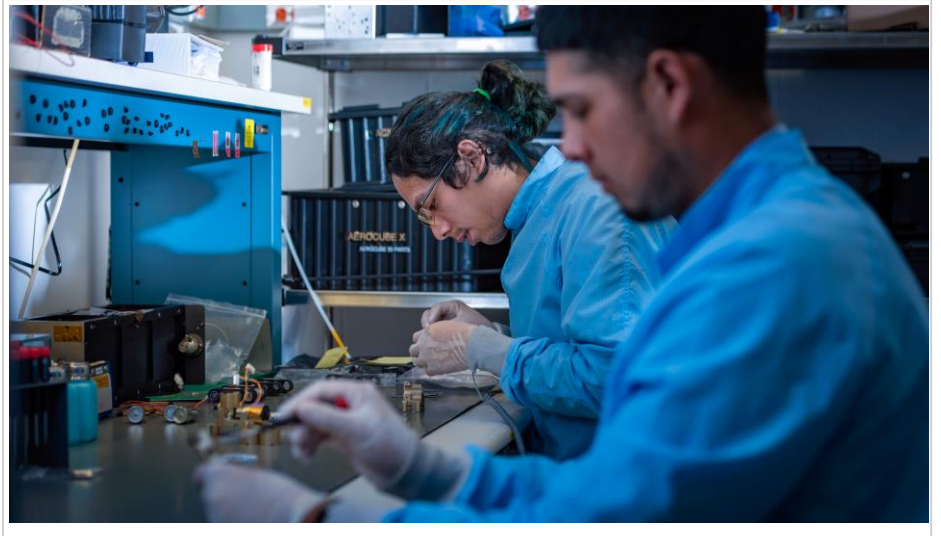


The Aerospace Latino Members Association (ALMA) is an Aerospace employee resource group (ERG). Membership and participation in all ERGs are open to all employees, regardless of identity.

How Aerospace Advances Technical Excellence to Deliver Needed Solutions

October 24, 2023

Continuous innovation is essential to advancing new possibilities for space and the technologies that enable it. This constant pursuit of technical excellence requires a commitment to exploring the concepts and capabilities for the mission needs of today, while also nurturing the maturation of technological breakthroughs that will shape the architectures of tomorrow.



Aerospace's strategic approach to investing for technical excellence aims to equip its world-class experts with the modern tools, capabilities, and skills – such as model-based systems engineering, digital engineering, artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML) – that expands its unparalleled breadth and depth of technical expertise.

"As the nation's trusted partner for space, Aerospace is relied upon to lead from the front, solving the hardest problems for our customers. We do this by leveraging cutting-edge technologies for priority mission areas while fostering longer-term research and development efforts to ensure the nation's leadership in space for the future," said Dr. Debra Emmons, Vice President and Chief Technology Officer of Aerospace.

This strategic approach is executed by facilitating opportunities and ideas across Aerospace's broader ecosystem – leveraging a multi-pronged approach that delivers reliable and advanced solutions to support government mission needs while also fostering opportunities for unique ideas and novel innovations that have the potential to shift the paradigm.

Read the [full article on Aerospace.org](https://www.aerospace.org).

When Life Happens: ATAG Event Dispels Mental Health Myths

October 18, 2023

Aerospace strives to create an inclusive environment where employees are empowered to bring their best selves to work. But what happens when an employee is not feeling their best? The Aerospace Totally Adaptable Group (ATAG) recently hosted an expert panel discussion that offered employees helpful insights on addressing mental health, leveraging available resources like the [Employee Resource Program \(EAP\)](#) and understanding security clearance requirements for their roles.



With October being National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), and this year's theme of "Advancing Access and Equity," ATAG partnered with the seven other Aerospace Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) to co-sponsor the event, which included remarks from DSG Vice President Jay Santee, Chief Operating Officer Ed Swallow and ATAG President Laura Simpson.

"We need everyone performing at their peak best if we are to solve the nation's hardest problems in space, and that means you operating at your best mentally and physically," Santee said in his opening remarks. "Mental health issues can affect us all at any point in our lives and it's universal to being human. Many times, many of us have felt anxiety or felt depressed, and at times, we experienced trauma that hits close to home. It's in these times when we might benefit from mental health counseling. The bottom line is that seeking help from our Employee Assistance Program will not negatively impact your ability to gain and retain security clearances."

The panel was moderated by Dr. Jim LaPean Jr. (NSG Principal Director), and featured Journalia Clowers (Security Director), Miguel Mercado (Security Director), and Cathy Carney-Peters (Strategic People Partner Director). It also featured guest panelists Dr. Michael Priestler and Jessica Belschner of the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA), and licensed therapist Carolyn Comini, Aerospace's EAP virtual onsite provider.

Demystifying Security Clearance Requirements

At Aerospace, all employees working in organizations with technical responsibilities are required to apply for and maintain at least a Secret clearance. Employees interested in seeking support from a mental health

professional may also be concerned for how accepting treatment could impact their eligibility of a security clearance. Fortunately, this concern is unwarranted and should not deter employees from seeking help if they need it.

“If you have a mental illness or seek advice from a counselor or a therapist, it does not constitute you automatically being revoked or suspended from a security clearance,” Clowers said. “We always encourage employees to self-report. That’s to ensure that they’re taking care of themselves first, and then know that they have an individual responsibility to report to security. We will work collaboratively with employees in a very private manner to work out the details.”

She added that Security works hand-in-hand with employees to ensure they understand the guidance and that Aerospace protects their information in accordance with the Privacy Act. Information is not divulged to anyone else who is not involved in the adjudicative process. Clowers urged employees to “trust the process,” which was echoed by the other Aerospace and DCSA panelists. The DCSA shared that out of the 5.4 million adjudications they’ve seen over an eight-year period, there were about 97,000 cases with psychologically related issues, of which only 62 were denied due to psychological concerns.

“What we try to do is to make sure that individuals who are cleared know that seeking mental health care is really seen favorably by all parties—by employers, the government and the security apparatus,” said Priester, Chief Psychologist for the DCSA’s Consolidated Adjudications Service (CAS). “If you sought treatment and adhered to medical recommendations, this is not a security concern. There are many reasons why somebody would seek treatment that doesn’t even need to come to the cognizance of the government. We want to make sure that individuals who are cleared seek the help they need to cope with the very stressful jobs of keeping the nation secure.”

Investigators are interested in understanding how an individual’s condition could impact their judgment, reliability and trustworthiness for national security. In fact, not seeking treatment when it’s needed could end up creating a greater concern and potentially lead to adverse outcomes.

“The number where we actually deny or revoke someone’s security clearance based on mental health condition is very low,” said Belschner, technical lead for DCSA’s Behavioral and Science Branch. “However, the ones that [were denied or revoked] were very, very, very concerning. I think that you can see a very high adjudicative value and continuing to look at mental health care. We just try to go out there and explain that as long as you’re doing the right thing, this is not going to impact you negatively. We try to share the fact that we have individuals with every single diagnosis that you can imagine that are cleared and working. They are doing absolutely just fine.”

Embrace Support for Mental Health

Security clearance requirements and job expectations aren’t the only factors that prevent individuals from seeking help. Sometimes, dealing with mental health involves overcoming perceived social stigma and cultural perceptions.

“Something could be going on—you could have some family stressors; could be anything from a new baby and daycare stressors to dealing with elder care needs,” Carney Peters said. “Life happens. It’s about

learning how to reach out for help. In our culture, I'm not sure we're really good at that. We have a tendency to maybe think, 'Oh, I'm tough. I can go it alone.' And I would say to leverage your broader team. Don't go it alone. Bring people in to help and find friends. Find friends that maybe you've never met before."

Aerospace has resources available for employees seeking support or to get more educated on the topic, either for themselves or members of their family. Aerospace's EAP hosts a vast library of articles and tools that covers a variety of different topics. Employees also have access to confidential counseling with qualified, selected professionals outside the company.

"Ask for help. I've lost a lot of friends who didn't, and not asking for help can manifest itself in the worst ways," said Mercado, who shared his own personal experiences battling post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD) as a veteran and deepening his dedication to overcome the challenges. "If you try to white-knuckle through it, it'll come out and probably in a different way, in a worse way, and you may not be able to come back from that. People actually like to help if you ask for it."



From left to right: Licensed therapist Carolyn Comini, ATAG President Laura Simpson, and Security Director Miguel Mercado were among the speakers and panelists for the hybrid event.

As an added convenience, Aerospace employees and their household members can reach out to Carolyn Comini, LMFT, who is a licensed therapist in California, Colorado and Virginia and Aerospace's virtual onsite EAP provider. Employees can call Comini directly at (562) 618-7424 to schedule virtual sessions that count toward their free EAP visits.

"I see a sense of community that really wants to talk about mental health at Aerospace. They're wanting to put the resources out there," Comini said. "I know sometimes it can be scary and I know we're all supposed to suck it up and be strong. I often tell people that I hold on to the hope when people come, because many of my clients don't have any hope. They're exhausted from whatever they're dealing with. The part that I love the most is I get to give the hope back to them when they leave."

Celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)

Throughout the month of October, ATAG has partnered with Aerospace Cares to present a giving campaign to recognize National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), which is national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. The giving opportunities highlight Lucky Fin Project, Mychal's Learning Place, AbilityFirst and Autism Speaks

The Aerospace Totally Adaptable Group (ATAG) is an Aerospace Employee Resource Group (ERG). Membership and participation in all ERGs are open to all employees, regardless of identity.

Innovation Spotlight: Exploring Incredible Work, Done by Incredible People

October 11, 2023

Innovation can be found across all aspects of Aerospace. While many may see the finished product of these prototypes and capabilities, exploring the brilliant minds behind them often can shed light on new perspectives and insight. **The Innovation Spotlight** series intends to showcase the talent, highlight the successes, and tell the personal stories of the engineers and scientists who are core to what Aerospace does.



These video shorts will provide a look behind the scenes in the labs to explore promising new research and hear about the day-to-day roles of our people in their own words. The work being done at Aerospace is truly incredible. The only thing more incredible are the people who make it happen.

Current and future episodes can be found on the YouTube Channel [here](#).

2023 Corporate Social Responsibility Report: Energizing a Culture of Purpose

October 05, 2023

The Aerospace Corporation's **2023 Corporate Social Responsibility Report** details the ways our people are fostering a culture of purpose to make an impact across our industry and in our communities. Learn more about how Aerospace is finding new ways to expand our reach to inspire others through the wonders of space and STEM.



Where Innovation Thrives

Innovation thrives in an environment that encourages diverse perspectives to converge. Through initiatives like Space Workforce 2030, Aerospace is contributing to fostering a more inclusive industry where all are welcome.

Supporting Students in STEM

Aerospace supports a breadth of programs and opportunities that empower students to work toward making their dreams a reality.

Making a Difference Together

Throughout the year, Aerospace enables employees to join together and make tangible impact in the communities where our people work and live.



Reaching for the Stars

Our team of scientists and engineers are dedicated to fostering the spirit of curiosity that fills inquisitive minds, showing them the endless possibilities that await in space.

The Power of STEM Education

Aerospace understands that education is key to success and by supporting teachers, we can help provide students the learning opportunities and resources to unlock their true potential.

Helping Students Unlock Their Future

Aerospace engages with students through a variety of outreach programs, encouraging their educational pursuits and future goals with guidance and support.

A Culture of Giving

Giving back to the community runs deep through Aerospace's culture and our people find ways to contribute throughout the year, utilizing their time and talents to support those in need.

A Force for Good

Recognizing the significant contributions and sacrifice of our nation's veterans and active-duty members in the armed forces is especially meaningful for Aerospace and its people, many of whom are veterans themselves.

Delivering Excellence with Integrity

Firm ethics and integrity are the foundation of our culture at Aerospace, enabling our people to take pride in the work they do in support of our nation's space programs.

To read The 2023 Corporate Social Responsibility Report in full, please visit

www.aerospace.org/CSR2023



Celebrating Community and Culture During National Hispanic Heritage Month

October 04, 2023

Aerospace employees from across the corporation are committed to coming together as a community to celebrate and support one another, recognizing strength in diversity.

This year, Aerospace Latino Members Association (ALMA) is celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month (HHM) with a variety of activities and events open to employees, centering around the month's national theme, "Prosperity, Power, and Progress in America".



"This theme acknowledges the positive contributions Latinx Americans have made for our nation's prosperity," said Susana Aguilar, who served as ALMA President in FY23 and, with the start of the new fiscal year, welcomed the group's incoming leadership. "ALMA is an organization that is dedicated to creating a community of members and allies that support the growth of each other, ourselves as professionals and our communities. There is power in our intent and good things happen when we come together. And as I pass the



Throughout HHM, employees have the opportunity to celebrate and learn more about the 21 countries that make up Latin America.

baton to incoming ALMA officers, I am hopeful for ALMA continuing the work of rising each other and our community up with us. Good things happen when we come together.”

HHM is celebrated from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 every year in the United States, which is also when Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua celebrate their independence from Spain, with Mexico celebrating this day on Sept. 16 and Chile celebrating on Sept. 18. HHM began as Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968, celebrating of the cultures and histories of Americans with ancestry in the Caribbean, Central and South America, Mexico and Spain, expanding to a month-long celebration in 1988.

“One of the things that many people love about Aerospace is that we are encouraged to bring our true selves to work every day and for all of us, that’s our families and culture that makes up who we are,” said Edelina Rose, President of ALMA. “It’s exciting to be able to share what we know as familiar to others who are experiencing it for the first time. Even with being Latinx, each one of us has a different cultural background and being from different countries also makes us different within the Latinx community, so even between each other, we have an opportunity to learn. Diversity in our people means we are fostering diversity of thought and that’s important to the work we do every day.”



At Chantilly’s “Taste Of” event, employees showed off their design and coloring skills while making crafts showcasing Latinx traditions.

Exploring Cultures as a Community

On Sept. 27, ALMA hosted its annual “Taste Of” event, providing Aerospace employees and leaders, such as NSG Vice President Tanya Pemberton, in Chantilly and El Segundo the opportunity to experience the sights, tastes and sounds of Latin America.

In Chantilly, employees enjoyed various traditional foods, including chicha morada, empanadas and arroz con leche, giving employees a taste of Peru, Cuba and Argentina.

Throughout the event, employees made traditional crafts, including weaving rugs from Peru, making gaucho belt buckles from Argentina, and crafting yarn dolls from Cuba. The piñata, which has roots in Mexican culture, was a crowd favorite, filled with sweet treats for guests to enjoy.



ALMA’s “Taste Of” events provided an opportunity for employees to enjoy the rich heritage and traditions of Latin American countries through food.

In El Segundo, traditional Cuban foods, including black beans, fried plantains and ropa vieja, were enjoyed by the more than 50 attendees. During the event, employees had their knowledge of Latin American culture tested while they played a special HHM themed Kahoot quiz game where the top three winners

took home special prizes celebrating Latinx heritage. After each round, the correct answer was explained, allowing employees to learn more about the diverse cultures that make up Latin America.

“It’s fun to see people come down to the space and see what we have planned for them,” said Rose. “Since we highlight different countries every year, it’s a different experience every year in the activities we do and the food we present. So, they come to the event to see what they’ll get to be a part of, and that’s exciting to see, that we have co-workers that are interested in learning and experiencing new things, and more importantly, learning about their fellow coworkers.”

Heritage Month Continues

This year, ALMA is also hosting two virtual events open to all employees. “The Importance of Unplugging” event, which serves a wellness reminder, was held on Oct. 3, and “Thinking Traps,” a guided exploratory process on defining thinking traps and overcoming them, will be held on Oct. 12. Christine Walchuk, a subject matter expert on the topic, will present best practices on how to unplug from work and screens.

Throughout HHM, ALMA is hosting a [giving campaign through Aerospace Cares](#). One of ALMA’s priorities is mentoring the next generation of Latinx scientists and engineers in order to continue the prosperity, power, and progress of Latinx Americans across the country. This year’s giving campaign supports organizations that align with that mission, including Los Angeles Team Mentoring, STEM Advantage, and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers.

“Hispanic Heritage Month is so important because it further reinforces for our ALMA members that Aerospace is a place of inclusion and belonging and that’s important to everyone in a workspace regardless of your background,” said Rose.

Celebrating Excellence

Following HHM, ALMA will be hosting their inaugural Spirit of Excellence Award ceremony. The event will take place in El Segundo on Oct. 19, honoring the exceptional contributions of one Aerospace employee while celebrating the dedication to excellence demonstrated across the corporation.

The Aerospace Latino Members Association (ALMA) is an Aerospace Employee Resource Group (ERG). Membership and participation in all ERGs are open to all employees, regardless of identity.

October 2023 Obituaries

October 01, 2023

Sincere sympathy is extended to the families of:

- ♦ James Moore, member of technical staff, hired April 6, 1981, retired April 1, 1996, died Aug. 10, 2023
- ♦ Jessie Adams, technical support staff, hired Sept. 17, 1975, retired March 1, 2014, died Aug. 24, 2023
- ♦ Carol Gurney, office Support, hired Oct. 3, 1960, retired May 1, 1986, died Sept. 1, 2023
- ♦ Ernest King, member of technical staff, hired Nov. 22, 1966, retired May 1, 1999, died Aug. 17, 2023
- ♦ Robert Martz, member of technical staff, hired March 27, 1989, retired Oct. 1, 1999, died Sept. 7, 2023
- ♦ Rubin Navarro, technical support staff, hired Dec. 9, 1980, died Aug. 27, 2023
- ♦ Harry Oyama, member of technical staff, hired April 21, 1977, retired Nov. 1, 2011, died Aug. 31, 2023
- ♦ Seymour Siegel, hired April 10, 1961, died Sept. 19, 2023
- ♦ Fredrich Sobottka, member of technical staff, hired Jan. 24, 1980, retired March 1, 1998, died Sept. 14, 2023
- ♦ Bryan Stewart, member of technical staff, hired Dec. 7, 2015, retired Jan. 1, 2021, died Aug. 23, 2023
- ♦ Michael Toman, technical support staff, hired Oct. 5, 1981, died Sept. 2, 2023
- ♦ John Taxler, member of technical staff, hired Oct. 5, 1967, retired April 1, 1996, died Sept. 6, 2023

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