The Ohio Space Grant Consortium (OSGC) was established in 1989 (along with the original Ohio 12-member universities) by the United States Congress, and is part of the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program known as “Space Grant” administered through the Office of Education at NASA Headquarters. There are 52 consortia, one in each state, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Space Grant is a unique national network of colleges and universities working to expand opportunities for Americans to understand and participate in NASA’s aeronautics and space projects by supporting and enhancing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) through scholarships, fellowships, higher education, research infrastructure, precollege (K-12), and informal education public outreach efforts. The Space Grant National network includes over 1,000+ affiliates from universities, colleges, industry, museums, science centers, and state and local agencies.

The OSGC is currently composed of 25 Affiliates (24 institutions of higher learning (18 universities (2 HBCUs), 6 community colleges, NASA Glenn Research Center (GRC) the Air Force Research Laboratories (AFRL), and various education outreach partners. The OSGC Program Office is located at the Ohio Aerospace Institute (OAI), a non-profit organization serving as the Lead Institution in Cleveland, Ohio, and is led by Dr. Jed E. Marquart who serves as the OSGC Director.

**Vision:**
The Vision of the Ohio Space Grant Consortium (OSGC) is to enhance opportunities for all Ohioans to participate in NASA Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)-related research, education, workforce, and public service programs to build and sustain a diverse, well-prepared technical workforce for NASA and the Nation, and to lead in the promotion and development of aeronautics, space science and engineering, and earth science.

**Mission:**
To advance the Nation’s capability in STEM leading to the continued development of a diverse workforce through NASA-related collaborations within Ohio’s network of scientists, researchers, engineers, and educators at Ohio universities, the Ohio Aerospace Institute (OAI), NASA Centers, the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), and industry that align with the National Space Grant Program goals and objectives. A key component of this activity is to attract and retain students in STEM disciplines with emphasis on increasing participation by women, underrepresented minorities, and persons with disabilities.

**Goals:**

**#1:** Develop a diverse STEM workforce in Ohio and the Nation.
- NIFS (NASA Internships, Fellowships, and Scholarships)
  - Competitive scholarship and fellowship program at Ohio universities
  - Includes research project + faculty mentors
  - Internships [with NASA Centers (focus on Glenn Research Center) and with industry]

**#2:** Engage students and faculty in hands-on STEM research activities.
- Student-Innovative-Creative-Hands-on Project (SICHOP) grants
- Faculty Research/Curriculum grants (aligned to NASA research priorities)

**#3:** Support collaborative STEM research for Ohio faculty and students.
- Student grants
- Faculty Research grants
- Summer research/internship opportunities (2 HBCUs)

**#4:** Increase STEM awareness for Ohio K-12 teachers and students.
- Exposure to NASA Education materials
- Teacher Training Programs and Workshops
- OSGC Mini-grants

**#5:** Encourage informal educational activities promoting STEM.
- OSGC Informal Education grants

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Key Program Elements

Student Awards – 100 per year (all awardees must be U.S. Citizens)

Graduate Fellowships:
• Master’s 1 Fellowships ($16,000 plus tuition waiver) – Open to students enrolled in a STEM discipline at an Ohio Affiliate university offering graduate programs
• Master’s 2 Fellowships ($8,000 plus tuition waiver) – Open to students continuing in Year 2.

Undergraduate Scholarships:
• Junior and Senior Scholarships ($3,500) – Open to students enrolled in STEM at an Affiliate university
• Community College Scholarships ($1,000) – Open to students enrolled in STEM at an Affiliate community college
• Pre-Service Teacher Scholarships ($2,000) – Open to students majoring in Education and seeking licensure in Science or Math at an Affiliate university with Colleges of Education
• Special Scholarships – In memory of two former OSGC Directors ($1,000)

Student Internships at NASA Centers / Industry / University:
Open to students enrolled in a STEM discipline who have been selected for a Summer / Spring / Fall internship at either a NASA Center, industry or university. Students are required to attend an Ohio university, or reside in Ohio.

Mini-grants to Ohio K-12 Teachers:
Offer mini-grants up to $1,000 to support innovative projects and programs from any discipline demonstrating space-related interests. Mini-grants support K-12 math, science, or computer projects and are available to all Ohio K-12 teachers. Approximately 8-10 mini-grants are awarded per year.

Grant Opportunities for Ohio Faculty, Educators, and Students:
Offer grant funding to support innovative programs and research demonstrating STEM-related interests. Grants are awarded in the areas of Higher Education, Research Infrastructure, Precollege, and Informal Education and require 1:1 in cost share. Approximately 20 grants are awarded per year. Types of grant opportunities are:

• Faculty Research Initiation Grant Proposal (FRIGP) – is specifically meant as "seed funding" for untenured faculty to support new, innovative research to provide necessary results for a regular research grant opportunity with a funding agency (i.e., NASA, NSF). Funding is restricted to one year.

• Curriculum Innovation Proposal (CIP) – to support new, innovative curriculum development to support the development of STEM higher education in areas supported by NASA. Curriculum developments that that can be shared with other schools are preferred.

• Student-Innovative-Creative-Hands-on Project (SICHOP) – to aid in funding for undergraduate student "hands-on" projects. This can be an individual or a group project. A faculty mentor is required.

• Informal Education Innovation Proposal (IEIP) – to support informal education activities that support STEM education in areas supported by NASA. Collaborative proposals involving multiple participants and ones that can be shared with other organizations are preferred.

Student-led Balloon Satellite/Rocket/UAS/Design Programs:
Increases student exposure to design requirements of space hardware and provides opportunities for students to experience hands-on STEM activities. Practical team-building skills are developed as students prepare for the future STEM workforce. Funding is provided to student-led Balloon Satellite/Robotics/Rocket/Underwater Robotics/UAS/Design programs to Affiliate universities. To date, Case, Western, Cedarville, Central State, Cleveland State, Kent State, Lorain County Community College, Miami University, Ohio Northern University, Ohio State, Ohio University, Sinclair Community College, The University of Akron, University of Cincinnati, University of Dayton, The University of Toledo, Wright State, and Youngstown State all have active student-led teams.