



BROOKE OWENS FELLOWSHIP

**2023
ANNUAL
REPORT**

CONTENTS



03

ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP

07

IMPACT

08

SELECTION & THE CLASS OF 2023

10

PROGRAM ELEMENTS

14

FINANCIAL REPORT

17

HISTORICAL 990 FORMS



ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP

Founded in 2016, the Brooke Owens Fellowship is a nationally acclaimed nonprofit organization that provides undergraduate women and gender minorities with a pathway to successful aerospace careers and leadership positions. This pathway begins with a competitive application process that selects finalists for over forty paid space and aviation summer internships annually. Fellows are matched with both senior executive and alumni mentors. Each Fellow participates in an annual Summit and becomes part of a growing cohort of young professionals driven by a common purpose.

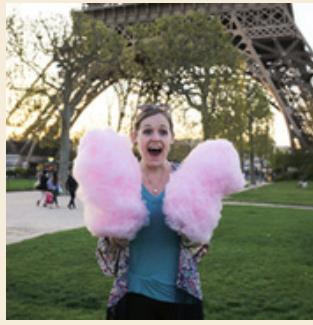
MISSION & HISTORY

The Brooke Owens Fellowship was established to help address a historic gender imbalance in the aerospace field. The organization's programs are designed to serve both as an inspiration and as a career boost to capable young women and gender minorities who, like Brooke, aspire to explore our sky and stars, advance the aerospace industry, and help their fellow people here on planet Earth. Its mission is to provide opportunities and access to talented female and gender minority students from all backgrounds who have been previously underrepresented in the aerospace community.

The Brooke Owens Fellowship was founded to honor the memory of beloved industry pioneer and pilot D. Brooke Owens, who passed away in June 2016 at the age of 36, after a hard-fought battle with cancer. The program was co-founded by Lori Garver, the former Deputy Administrator of NASA; Cassie Lee, CEO of Sound Future; and William Pomerantz, the Head of Space Ventures at AeroVironment.

As the Fellowship model proved to be successful, its leadership was asked to support the development of several expanded programs with aligned interests. Five new educational aerospace internship programs including the Matthew Isakowitz Fellowship, Patti Grace Smith Fellowship, Prospero Fellowship, Zed Factor Fellowship, and Zenith Fellowship have been fostered to varying degrees by Brooke Owens Fellowship Alumni and the Brooke Owens Fellowship Executive Team in their early stages. The Patti Grace Smith Fellowship, which utilizes the model to support a growing cadre of Black students interested in aerospace, was initiated by Brooke Owens Fellowship leaders and alumni in 2020. The program continues to operate under the governance of the Brooke Owens Fellowship.

WHO WAS DAWN BROOKE OWENS?



Brooke was a beloved friend and colleague to many in the aerospace industry. Coming from humble beginnings in a small mining company town (population: ~2,750) just outside of Death Valley National Park, Brooke managed to make a lasting impact on the industry through talent, character, and sheer determination.

Always an excellent student – she was valedictorian of her high school class... though she was always quick to point out that there were only two students in her class! – Brooke was an alumna of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and the International Space University. Professionally, she worked at the NASA's Johnson Space Center, the non-profit XPRIZE Foundation, the Federal Aviation Administration's Office of Commercial Space Transportation, and the White House Office of Management and Budget.

Brooke also committed herself to whole-hearted service. Supporting organizations such as AidChild and Mercy's Village International, Brooke was passionate about making her world a better place by supporting children orphaned by the HIV/AIDS crisis, ending human trafficking, fighting poverty, and empowering girls and women.

Outside of work and her philanthropic efforts, Brooke was a caring, warm, and adventurous spirit. She was an accomplished pilot and spent many of her happiest moments flying. She found time to go kayaking, run triathlons, become a party DJ, perform at spoken word events, and a million other things.

Brooke was the sort of person for whom no amount of time on this Earth would have been enough to do all that she wanted to do. Thankfully, she was also the sort of person who lived life to its fullest and found joy in every moment. She is dearly missed by an international community of friends, colleagues, mentors, mentees, and loved ones.

GOVERNANCE



Caryn Schenewerk



Kayla Watson



Lori Garver



Maddie Kothe



Sirisha Bandla

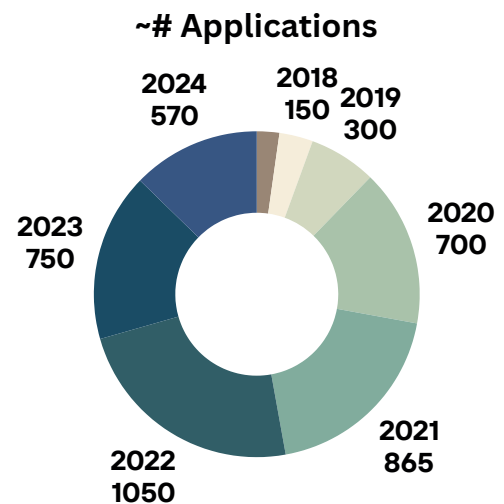
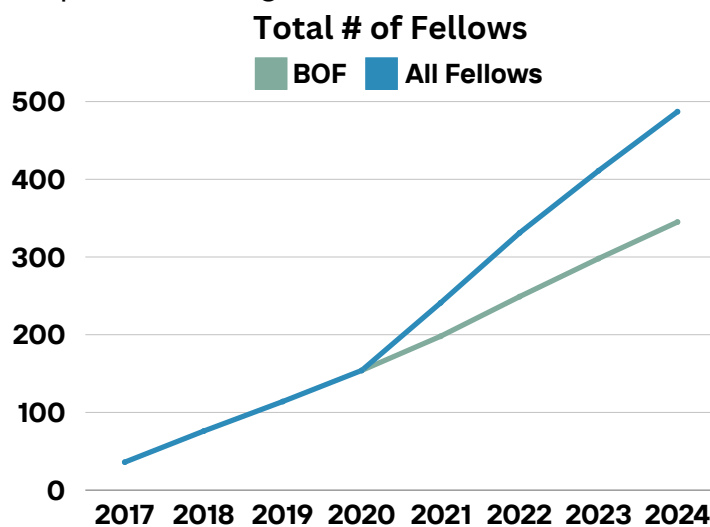
The Brooke Owens Fellowship is led by a volunteer five-person Board of Directors (also known as the Executive Leadership Team), that includes two alumni Fellows. As of December 31, 2023, Board Members include Caryn Schenewerk, President of CS Consulting LLC and an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center; Kayla Watson (BOF Class of 2018), a System Reliability Engineer at Amazon Prime Air; Lori Garver, co-founder of the Brooke Owens Fellowship and former Deputy Administrator of NASA; Maddie Kothe (BOF Class of 2018), West Coast Recovery Manager at SpaceX, and Sirisha Bandla, Vice President of Government Affairs and Research Operations at Virgin Galactic and the third Indian woman to go to space.

IMPACT

The Brooke Owens Fellowship has received over 3,500 applications, and selected over 350 students to become Fellows, or “Brookies” (as they have come to be identified in the aerospace community), to date. The organization has been honored by numerous accolades and awards, including the American Astronautical Society’s Patti Grace Smith Award, Space News’ Unsung Hero Award, and the Space Frontier Foundation’s Stakeholder Expansion Award. Brookies are already making meaningful contributions to the aerospace field across the spectrum of government, academia, and industry.

The Brooke Owens Fellowship continues to serve as the host organization to the Patti Grace Smith Fellowship (PGSF), which provides internships and mentorship to undergraduate Black students of all genders. The third class of Patti Grace Smith Fellows was selected in 2023, which included 31 students selected from nearly 100 applications. The selection of 29 students for the 2024 PGSF class was finalized in late 2023.

The annual Brooke Owens Fellowship Summit was expanded in 2022 and 2023 to include Patti Grace Smith Fellows for a significant part of its programming. In addition to providing governance, administrative, and summit support, fifty percent of the contributions from two major donors, Club for the Future and DGBM Taylor Family Foundation, have been designated to the PGSF program - a total of \$600,000 between 2021 and 2023. Leaders of the Patti Grace Smith Fellowship filed for its own 501(c)(3) in 2023, and have plans to establish their own independent organization in 2024.



SELECTION OF FELLOWS

The Class of 2023 marks the seventh class of “Brookie” Fellows. The 48 Fellows were selected through a fair and extremely competitive application process involving written and creative submissions, interviews with the Fellowship’s leadership team and its close network, and interviews with leading aerospace employers from across multiple sectors in the US aerospace industry. Almost 1,000 promising and talented students applied worldwide in 2023, coming from Ivy League universities, major research universities, historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), liberal arts colleges, community colleges, and major international universities. The Fellows were selected based on their incredible talent, desire to pursue a career in aerospace, stand-out creative abilities, record of leadership, and most importantly commitment to their communities.

Brooke Owens Fellowship 2023 Class and Hosts

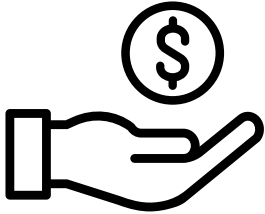
- Akshara Kuduvali, a Sophomore studying Computer Engineering at University of California, San Diego. Kuduvali interned with HawkEye 360.
- Alexandria Baca, a Junior studying Aerospace Engineering at the University of Central Florida. Baca interned with Airbus U.S. Space & Defense.
- Alexis Lupo, a Senior studying Physics at the University of Texas at El Paso. Lupo interned with Draper Laboratory.
- Alina Santander Vinokurova, a Senior studying Mechatronics Engineering at Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology. Santander Vinokurova interned with Zipline.
- Althea Noonan, a Sophomore studying Aerospace Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology. Noonan interned with the Federal Aviation Administration Office of Commercial Space Transportation (FAA-AST).
- Amber Porteous, a Senior studying Aerospace Engineering at University of Alabama in Huntsville. Porteous interned with Lonestar Lunar.
- Ananya Malhotra, a Junior studying Mechanical engineering and Applied Mechanics at University of Pennsylvania. Malhotra interned with Blue Origin.
- Anjali Koganti, a Junior studying Aerospace Engineering at University of California, Los Angeles. Koganti interned with the Aerospace Corporation.
- Caitlin O’Brien, a Senior studying Astrophysics at the Ohio State University. O’Brien interned with the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).
- Caleigh Stagnone, a Senior studying Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering at the University of Washington. Stagnone interned with Loft Orbital.
- Cari Reinert, a Senior studying International Political Economy at the University of Texas at Dallas. Reinert interned with BryceTech.
- Casey Junkin, a Sophomore studying Mechanical Engineering at University of Texas at Austin. Junkin interned with Lockheed Martin.
- Celín Hidalgo, a Senior studying Astrophysics and Art History at Rutgers University. Hidalgo interned with NASA Goddard Flight Space Center
- Devanshi Narayan, a Senior studying Aerospace Engineering at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Narayan interned with SpaceX.
- Eileen “Eli” Duong, a Junior studying Mechanical Engineering at Boston University. Duong interned with Venturi Astrolab.
- Eleanor Sigrest, a Sophomore studying Aerospace Engineering and Computer Science at Stanford University. Sigrest interned with Relativity Space.

- Elizabeth “Liz” Karagiannes, a Senior studying Aerospace Engineering at Illinois Institute of Technology. Karagiannes interned with Lockheed Martin.
- Hannah Joo, a Junior studying Computer Science and Cognitive Science at the University of California, Berkeley. Joo interned with SpaceX.
- Isabelle “Izzy” Ragheb, a Sophomore studying Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at the California Institute of Technology. Ragheb interned with Amazon Prime Air.
- Ishani Peddi, a Sophomore studying Aerospace Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology. Peddi interned with Ball Aerospace.
- Jolene Lee, a Sophomore studying Mechanical Engineering at Stanford University. Lee interned with Relativity Space.
- Kylie Schmidt, a Junior studying Mechanical Engineering at University of Kentucky. Schmidt interned with SpaceX.
- Lauren Paulson, a Senior studying Mechanical Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology. Paulson interned with Draper Laboratory.
- Leela Cañuelas, a 5th Year Senior studying Mathematical Physics and Philosophy at Brown University. Cañuelas interned with Planet.
- Lillian “Lilly” Saub, a Junior studying Aerospace Engineering at University of Alabama. Saub interned with USNC Tech.
- Madison Forseth, a Junior studying Aerospace Engineering at San Jose State University. Forseth interned with Ball Aerospace.
- Margot Daberkow, a Junior studying Aerospace Engineering at University of Colorado Boulder. Daberkow interned with Sierra Nevada Corporation (SNC).
- Maria “Miriam” Klaczynska, a First Year studying History of Science at University of California, Berkeley. Klaczynska interned with SpaceNews.
- Maria Korolik, a Sophomore studying Mechanical Engineering and Astrophysics at Yale University. Korolik interned with the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory.
- Maya Harris, a Senior studying Aeronautics and Astronautics at Stanford University. Harris interned with ABL.
- Meenakshi “Meena” Pandit, a Senior studying Science, Technology, & Society at Brown University. Pandit interned with the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA).
- Nicole McGaa, a Junior studying Aerospace Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. McGaa interned with Blue Origin.
- Nidhi Sonwalkar, a Sophomore studying Mechanical Engineering at Cornell University. Sonwalkar interned with Northrop Grumman.
- Olivia Kolakowski, a Sophomore studying Mechanical Engineering at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. Kolakowski interned with Northrop Grumman.
- Payton Porter, a Senior studying Aerospace Engineering at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Porter interned with Sierra Space.
- Raveen Sidhu, a Senior studying Microbiology and Oceanography at University of British Columbia. Sidhu interned with Space Capital.
- Saima Jamal, a Senior studying Mechanical Engineering at University of Michigan - Ann Arbor. Jamal interned with KBR.
- Sala Ba, a Junior studying Mechanical Engineering at Stanford University. Ba interned with Blue Origin.
- Samina Patel, a Junior studying Aerospace Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology. Patel interned with Voyager Space Holdings.
- Shelby Courreges, a Senior studying Astrophysics at Texas Tech University. Courreges interned with the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory.
- Shireen Dooling, a Senior studying Astrophysics at Arizona State University. Dooling interned with NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.
- Skylar Edwards, a 5th Year Senior studying Aerospace Engineering at University of Colorado Boulder. Edwards interned with United Launch Alliance (ULA).
- Sophie Pieta, a Junior studying Aerospace Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Pieta interned with Hermeus.
- Sweta Alla, a Sophomore studying Aerospace Engineering and Chemistry at University of Colorado Boulder. Alla interned with the Aurelia Institute.
- Tatiana Michel, a Junior studying Aerospace Engineering at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Michel interned with Joby Aviation.
- Thendral Kamal, a Sophomore studying Aerospace Engineering at Purdue University. Kamal interned with SES.
- Urvi Alamela, a Junior studying Aerospace Engineering at University of Texas at Austin. Alamela interned with Blue Origin.
- Vanessa Van Decker, a Senior studying Mechanical Engineering at Toronto Metropolitan University. Van Decker interned with Zipline.

For more information on the Class of 2023, please check out the “Our Fellows” page on our website:

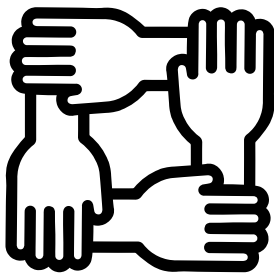
<https://www.brookeowensfellowship.org/class-of-2023>

PROGRAM ELEMENTS



Paid Internship

Fellows are matched by industry leaders to specific intern positions at one of our outstanding aerospace host organizations. Over the course of a ~12-week summer, Fellows complete meaningful projects, learn valuable skills, and are paid a living wage.



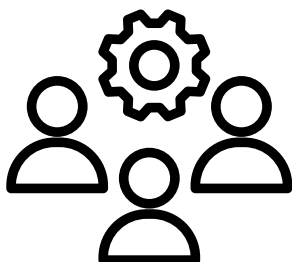
Mentorship

Each Fellow is paired with two mentors: an Executive Mentor and a Brookie Alumni Mentor. These mentors offer personalized guidance to maximize the Fellowship experience and career development. Our mentorship program facilitates connections between Brookies worldwide and a diverse range of accomplished individuals, including astronauts, authors, journalists, executives, and space policy experts.



Summit

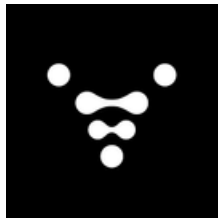
During the summer, all Fellows come together for an exclusive, one-of-a-kind gathering, making valuable connections and learning important skills. In addition to team projects and one-on-one mentoring sessions, the Summit features private Q&A sessions with NASA leaders, astronauts, CEOs, and company founders.



Brookie Network

By earning their spot in the program, each Fellow is forever included in the Brooke Owens Fellowship network—including an open and direct line of communication to our program's founders, mentors, host companies, and supporters—in addition to the other extraordinary and passionate women and gender minorities in our alumnae network.

2023 HOSTS



MENTORS

Mentorship is a core pillar of the Brooke Owens Fellowship programming and Fellowship experience. Each 2023 Brooke Owens Fellow received one Brookie Alumni Mentor and one Executive Mentor. The Brookie Alumni Mentors help to act as a Brookie Guide to their mentees by sharing experiences and lessons learned from their time as a Fellow. Our Executive Mentors are respected members of the aerospace industry who provide support and work with their mentees to help launch their careers. These mentors provide one one-on-one investment into each Brookie and help to champion them long after their internship is over.

Thank you to our incredible 2023 Executive Mentor Team!

- Steve Koerner - Deputy Director of NASA's JSC
- Nicole Stott - Former NASA Astronaut
- Tamira Ross - Director & Chief Engineer of Rapid Space Capabilities
- Danielle Wood - Professor at the MIT Media Lab
- Scott Parazynski - Former NASA Astronaut
- Alinda Mashiku - CARA Deputy Program Manager at NASA GSFC
- Jennifer Young - Aerospace Engineer for Blue Canyon Technologies
- Jennifer Uchida - Manager of Test and Evaluation at AeroTEC
- Rob Meyerson - CEO of Delalune Space
- Stephanie Luongo - Chief of Missions Operations at Sceye
- Patricia Cooper - Vice President of Satellite Government Affairs at SpaceX
- Christie Iacomini - Sr. Program Manager & Technical Lead at Lockheed Martin
- Laurie Abade - Artemis Initial Capabilities in NASA's Human Research Program
- Zachary Krevor - CEO & President of Stratolaunch, LLC.
- Meenakshi (Mini) Wadhwa - Director of the Center for Meteorite Studies
- Raha Hakimdavar - Director of Space Sciences at Ball Aerospace
- Debbie Seneskey - Associate Professor at Stanford University
- Lori Glaze - Director of NASA's Science Mission, Planetary Science Division
- Chris DeMay - Founder & COO of TrustPoint
- Tracy Drain - Systems Engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory
- Kate Tice - Senior Manager of Quality Systems Engineering at SpaceX
- Charity Weeden - Associate Administrator of NASA's OTPS
- May Rosekrans - Production Manager for Orbit Fab, Inc.
- Amanda Simpson - Vice President for Research and Technology at Airbus
- Vanessa Aponte-Williams - Sr. Manager of Advance Programs at Lockheed Martin
- Judith Hayes - CSO for Human Health and Performance at NASA JSC
- Yajaira Sierre-Sastre - Sr. Technical Program Manager at Blue Origin
- Samalis Santini De León - Preparation for Power Flight Lead at JHUAPL
- Tory Bruno - President & CEO of ULA
- Ashley Zauderer - Program Director at the National Science Foundation
- Michelle Murray - Deputy Manager of Operations Integration Division at the FAA

SUMMIT

The 2023 Brooke Owens Fellowship Summit was held in Washington, DC from July 11 - 15. The gathering focused on developing the Fellows' knowledge and skills, as well as providing them with contacts in the field and a foundation to grow as a cohort. Summit speakers included the Honorable Pam Melroy, Deputy Administrator of NASA, Dr. Laurie Leshin, the Director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and Dr. Greg Robinson, former Program Director for NASA's Webb Telescope. In addition, Fellows attended professional panels, participated in one-on-one mentorship, completed group projects, and toured the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. In 2023, Fellows were invited to the White House to meet with the leaders of the National Space Council and received individually signed letters of congratulations from Vice President, Kamala Harris. This year's Summit included the first sponsored banquet for the organization, where aerospace companies had the opportunity to participate in the event through sponsorship.



FINANCIAL REPORT

The Brooke Owens Fellowship began with an all-volunteer team and a handful of personal donations. The program was structured to have Host organizations pay an established rate per Fellow, to offset the costs of the program. In 2023, Hosts paid \$2,500 per Fellow, including their intern's travel costs to the DC Summit. In addition to Host fees, the Fellowship received individual donations and solicited corporate sponsorship of a Rising Stars Banquet, held during the Summit in 2023.

In 2021, the Fellowship received a \$1,000,000 donation from Blue Origin's Club for the Future. The program leadership designated half of the amount as a sub-grant for the Patti Grace Smith Fellowship. In 2022, the Dylan Taylor Family Foundation pledged to donate \$100,000 to the organization on an annual basis for ten years. The Executive Team designated half of these funds for the Patti Grace Smith Fellowship in 2022 and 2023.

This combination of major donations has allowed the organization to employ a full-time paid employee to run the day-to-day management of the organization since 2022. Carly Broady replaced Ginny Randall as the Fellowship Administrator in July of 2023. Over \$600,000 of the funds (half designated to the PGSF) are invested in long-term securities (see financial statement for details).

INCOME & EXPENSES*

INCOME	2023 ACTUAL	2024 PROJECTED
Host Fees	\$120,000	\$157,500
Donations	\$111,000	\$110,000
Sponsorship	\$35,000	\$35,000
Admin Support for PGSF	\$10,000	\$20,000
Total	\$276,000	\$322,500
EXPENSES		
Summit	\$121,789	\$125,000
Staff Salaries	\$46,618	\$74,300
Grants to PGSF	\$50,000	\$50,000
Staff Benefits	\$22,506	\$28,000
Alumni Summit	\$16,752	\$25,000
Regional Alumni	\$2,702	\$10,000
Office/Admin	\$4,033	\$5,000
Travel	\$336	\$1,000
Recruiting	\$550	\$2,000
Miscellaneous	\$323	\$1,000
Total	\$265,609	\$320,300
NET	\$10,391	\$2,200

Investment Account Balance

JANUARY 1 2023	DECEMBER 31 2023
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\$596,823.32	\$681,434.83
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*Half of the balance of the investment account is designated to PGSF

SPONSORS & DONORS

Rising Stars Banquet Sponsors

abl



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VOYAGER
SPACE

Foundation Donors

Club For the Future - \$1,000,000

The DGBM Taylor Family Foundation - \$100,000

Individual Donors

Bretton Alexander
Joe Barnard
Jenn Gustetic
Christie Iacomini
Jillian Riveros

Jorje Arias
Sarah Carty
Lori Garver
Doug Litteken
Aurelio Tino

Anna Bader
Gill Guerra
Cain Hoy
Isla Mroz
Paula Trimble

RECENT 990 TAX FILINGS

- 2021
 - Brooke Owens Fellowship Form 8879 and Form 990 2021 Fiscal year.pdf
- 2022
 - 990 Tax Return 2022 Brooke Owens Fellowship.pdf
- 2023
 - To be filed September 2024