



# HONORING LEGACIES

In 2024, the Embraer Foundation deepened its partnership with The Astronauts Memorial Foundation to expand its reach and strengthen its ability to inspire the next generation of innovators



## A Shared Vision

The partnership between the Embraer Foundation and AMF is a natural alignment of goals and priorities. Both organizations are committed to engaging students and educators while fostering a stronger, more diverse talent pipeline for the aviation and aerospace industries.

Monica Newman McCluney, Head of U.S. Corporate Social Responsibility & The Embraer Foundation, explains the motivation behind the collaboration: “We wanted to deepen our reach with students interested in STEM and aerospace and determined AMF was an ideal partner to provide more consistent engagement through its event series. AMF’s ability to develop a virtual mentoring program also presented a unique opportunity to connect Embraer employees across the country with students.”

This shared vision has already translated into impactful initiatives. Embraer’s support has enhanced AMF’s signature programs, such as the Space Port Area Conference for Educators (SPACE) and the Career & Networking Conference. These events provide educators and students with invaluable resources, mentorship and hands-on experiences that spark curiosity and open doors to careers in STEM.

## Skyward Careers Initiative

One of the most exciting outcomes of this partnership is the launch of the Embraer Foundation’s Skyward Careers Initiative, a virtual mentoring program

scheduled for April 2025. Designed to inspire high school, trade school and college students, the program will connect participants with Embraer employees, NASA experts and other industry leaders through quarterly virtual sessions.

Each session will feature panel discussions, breakout groups and keynote presentations by inspiring figures such as astronauts and engineers. Students will gain actionable career insights, networking opportunities and a deeper understanding of the diverse pathways available in aviation, aerospace and STEM fields.

Julia Barney, AMF’s Marketing and Communications Director, highlights the program’s potential to make a lasting impact. “The Skyward Careers Initiative is designed to ignite curiosity and provide students with the tools and inspiration they need to pursue careers in STEM,” she said. “By connecting students with mentors and resources, we’re helping them envision their futures and take tangible steps toward achieving their goals.”

The program will prioritize students from underrepresented communities and regions where Embraer has a strong presence, such as Melbourne, FL, and other key locations across the U.S. Additionally, the cross-collaborative international partnerships with organizations like the Kennedy Space Center International Academy and the Michaelis Foundation will bring a global perspective to the initiative, enriching the experience for all participants.

## Looking Ahead

The Embraer-AMF partnership is poised for continued growth, with plans to expand the reach of programs like the Skyward Careers Initiative and increase participation in events such as the SPACE Conference. Both organizations are committed to ensuring access for underrepresented communities, fostering a more diverse and inclusive future for the aviation and aerospace industries.

Newman McCluney envisions a future where this collaboration continues to evolve and expand. “The hope is that this partnership provides consistent growth in brand exposure and reach across student populations nationwide,” she said.

AMF, for its part, is focused on enhancing its educational impact through new initiatives like the Trades in Space program and by integrating

advanced technology into its classrooms. By prioritizing these areas, the foundation aims to inspire the next generation of leaders in STEM, aviation and aerospace while honoring the legacy of those who came before.

## Inspiring the Next Generation

The partnership between Embraer and AMF is more than a collaboration—it’s a commitment to shaping the future. By honoring the past and inspiring the next generation, this partnership creates opportunities for students to explore, engage and excel in fields that will shape the future of aviation and aerospace.

For educators, students and members of the public interested in getting involved, AMF offers a range of opportunities, from career exploration events to immersive STEM education programs. By participating in these initiatives, you can join in honoring the legacy of fallen astronauts and inspiring the innovators of tomorrow. Together, we can continue to honor legacies, inspire futures and make a lasting impact. ←

To learn more about the Embraer Foundation, visit [embraerfoundation.org](http://embraerfoundation.org), and for information on AMF and its programs, visit [amfjse.org](http://amfjse.org).

Opposite: On Feb. 24, 2025, a check presentation ceremony was held to celebrate the partnership between the Embraer Foundation and AMF

Below: Robert Wagner, Learning and Development Specialist at Embraer, is presenting at the Kennedy Space Center to inspire interest in STEM careers



WORDS Jeanna Wood