

**DHEDF Rural STEM Initiative – Overview of Galactic Unite  
DHEDF Rural STEM Initiative Collaborating Organization  
As of 9 Dec 2023**

**To: DHEDF National Rural STEM Initiative Participating Schools**

**From: Wayne I. Fagan, DHEDF Chair**

**Date: 9 Dec 2023**

**Subject: Summary of info received from Virgin Galactic/ Galactic Unite and posted to DHEDF Rural STEM Initiative Private Pages for Participating Schools**

**Resources designed for use in Grades: K-12**

**Team:**

**Introduction:**

The information contained in this memo was assembled from a review of the Virgin Galactic/Galactic Unite websites and information graciously provided to us on behalf of [Galactic Unite](#) by:

**Gemma Blain**

Director, DEIB and Social Impact

Virgin Galactic

<https://www.virgingalactic.com/galactic-unite>

### **Mission Statement**

As stated on the Galactic Unite website:

“Galactic Unite is Virgin Galactic’s outreach initiative born out of a unique collaboration between our Future Astronaut community and Virgin Unite, the independent entrepreneurial foundation of the Virgin Group and the Branson family.”

“We recognize that the answers to many of the challenges we face in sustaining life on our beautiful but fragile planet lie in making better use of space, and that success rests in the hands of this and future generations of scientists, engineers, innovators and entrepreneurial leaders.”

- SIR Richard Branson

“Together we seek to drive positive change for young people by channeling our collective energy and resources—working to ensure that future generations are equipped to apply a planetary perspective to Earth’s greatest challenges.”

“We offer both practical support and inspirational programs developed for young people pursuing an education in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM).”

## **Overview of Virgin Galactic/Galactic Unite Resources/Programing**

### **1) The Blast Program**

In 2020, Galactic Unite launched a new scholarship, mentoring and training program for Black scholars pursuing STEM education with a focus on aerospace. The Galactic Unite Black Leaders in Aerospace Scholarship and Training (BLAST) Program is designed to support the next generation of Black leaders, who will power the rapidly developing aerospace industry in the years to come.

<https://www.virgingalactic.com/galactic-unite>

### **2) SPACECHATS**

Spacechats are virtual field trips, providing online interactive experiences and bringing ‘space’ directly into the classroom. During a Galactic Unite Spacechat every student has the opportunity to talk directly with a Future Astronaut and with a diverse range of staff from Virgin Galactic. Coordinated by Future Astronaut Ron Rosano, these virtual experiences create an opportunity for the Virgin Galactic team and Future Astronauts to communicate directly with students - encouraging them to follow their dreams and focus their efforts on things that they love doing.

<https://www.galacticunite.com/spacechats>

### **3) SCHOLARSHIPS**

#### **GALACTIC UNITE BYTHEWAY SCHOLARSHIP**

The Galactic Unite ByTheWay Scholarship is an ongoing program that provides \$7,500 scholarships to first-year female college students pursuing STEM degrees at any accredited two or four-year college or university in the United States. The program has awarded seventeen scholarships since 2012. The awards are renewable for four years and candidates must be U.S. citizens.

<https://www.virgingalactic.com/galactic-unite>

### **4) GRANTS**

The Galactic Unite Grants Program supports initiatives and not-for-profit organizations that promote STEAM and space education around the world.

**DHEDF Rural STEM Initiative – Overview of Galactic Unite**  
**DHEDF Rural STEM Initiative Collaborating Organization**  
**As of 9 Dec 2023**

<https://www.virgingalactic.com/galactic-unite>

**5) Additional sources of information about Galactic Unite**

- a) Search for Virgin Galactic/Galactic Unite in the DHEDF General Search engine at <https://dhedf.org/search?f=2&q=galactic+unite&Search=>
- b) Search for Virgin Galactic/Galactic Unite in the Private Pages of the DHEDF Rural STEM Initiative Discussion Group at <https://dhedf.org/forum/all/latest?category=23>
- c) Visit Virgin Galactic Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/VirginGalactic>
- d) Visit Virgin Galactic Twitter page at <https://www.facebook.com/VirginGalactic>
- e) Visit Virgin Galactic LinkedIn page at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/virgin-galactic/>
- f) Visit Virgin Galactic Instagram page at <https://www.instagram.com/virgingalactic>
- g) Search videos posted to Virgin Galactic You Tube Channel - <https://www.youtube.com/@VirginGalactic>
- h) **If you have any additional questions concerning Virgin Galactic/Galactic Unite you may submit your question to Virgin Galactic/Galactic Unite online at <https://www.virgingalactic.com/contact> or contact me, my contact details are set out below.**

**We are grateful to Gemma Blain and the Virgin Galactic/Galactic Unite team for their commitment to STEM Education in general, the great resources they make available to the public, and their collaboration with the DHEDF Rural STEM Initiative. As DHEDF becomes aware of additional resources from Galactic Unite this document will be supplemented from time to time.**

**Caveat:** From time to time, as in this case, DHEDF will share opportunities with you or make recommendations to you. It is totally up to you whether you wish to take advantage of those opportunities, DHEDF makes them in good faith, but they may not fit with your programing. DHEDF also wants to make it very clear that DHEDF has no financial interest in nor does it receive any financial benefit from any of the products or services we suggest to you for your evaluation.

If you have any questions concerning any of the foregoing or any other questions about DHEDF in general or the Rural STEM Initiative **please contact me, Wayne I. Fagan, at (210)570-7888 or [wifagan@wifagan.com](mailto:wifagan@wifagan.com)**

Thank you again for your participation in the DHEDF National Rural STEM Initiative, we are honored to have you, your schools, and your students as part of this Initiative.

**DHEDF Rural STEM Initiative – Overview of Galactic Unite  
DHEDF Rural STEM Initiative Collaborating Organization  
As of 9 Dec 2023**

Wayne I. Fagan | Chair  
**Dee Howard International Education Foundation**

