



National Space Club & Foundation  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **NATIONAL SPACE CLUB AND FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2025 GODDARD MEMORIAL DINNER KEYNOTE SCHOLAR**

*Washington, DC:* The National Space Club & Foundation proudly announces that, after a nation-wide search, Sohum Gautam has won the National Space Club & Foundation's Keynote Scholarship, securing his role as the keynote speaker during the Club's 68th Annual Robert H. Goddard Memorial Dinner scheduled for Friday, March 21, 2025, at the Washington Hilton.

Mr. Gautam is a high school senior at Downingtown STEM Academy in PA. His drive and passion for space exploration are evident in his many projects and accomplishments, such as co-founding a high school rocketry organization called Polaris that received recognition from NASA for over 12 successful high-powered rocket launches. As a NASA SEES intern, he worked on projects including analyzing exoplanet data, and at ANSYS AGI, he controlled satellite movement to monitor wildfires. He also delivered a TedX Talk on the future of deep space exploration and Mars colonization, highlighting how AI can drive our goals.

Demonstrating his desire to innovate, he engineered an AI-integrated FPV drone that led to recognition as a Coca-Cola Scholars semifinalist, as well as conceptualized the RAMION thruster, an air-breathing rocket engine combining ramjet and ion propulsion technologies for sustainable deep-space exploration. Additionally, Sohum has been deeply involved in researching AI's integration with robotic systems at the UPenn xLab and Carnegie Mellon Safe AI Lab.

Growing up as his father's copilot on Cessna flights, Sohum developed a love for flying. At 16, he obtained his student license, with the goal of becoming a private pilot by the time he completes high school.

Sohum plans to study aerospace engineering and computer science in college, aiming to explore how software can integrate with space systems. He aspires to start an aerospace company and contribute to the mission of sending humans to Mars, making humanity a multiplanetary species.

The Dr. Robert H. Goddard Memorial Dinner is the major event of the Washington, DC space calendar. First celebrated in 1958, it is traditionally held each year near the anniversary of the first successful flight by Dr. Goddard of a liquid-fueled rocket. The dinner brings together nearly 2,000 members of the government, industry and educational space community. In addition to the Keynote Scholarship, the Club presents several awards at the dinner to outstanding individuals for accomplishments in spaceflight, engineering, science, management and education. The premier award, the Goddard Trophy, is presented to the individual, group or program deemed to have made the most significant contribution to U.S. leadership in rocketry and astronautics either as a lifetime of achievement or in the previous calendar year.

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The National Space Club and Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization devoted to fostering excellence in space activity through interaction between industry and government, and through a continuing program of educational support. Youth Education is a premier focus of the Club, providing over \$160,000 in scholarships and internships each year. Awards are offered to recognize outstanding accomplishments in spaceflight, engineering, science, management, and education.

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