

ASTRONAUT PEGGY WHITSON ANNOUNCED AS A KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT THE 2021 INTERNATIONAL SPACE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

The National Space Society's 2021 Virtual Summit is Free to All

WASHINGTON, D.C., US, June 4, 2021 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The National Space Society is proud to announce former NASA astronaut Dr. Peggy Whitson as a keynote speaker at its annual [International Space Development Conference® 2021](#) (ISDC), which will be held virtually this year, running from June 24 through 27. Admission is free. There will be an additional streaming of the event timed for India and the Eastern Hemisphere.

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Peggy Whitson represents the best traits of the human exploration of space ... she's been an inspiration to young women the world over.”

Aggie Kobin, ISDC Chair

Dr. Whitson is currently a space and science consultant and is slated to command Axiom Space's second private mission to the International Space Station in 2022 aboard a SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft. Whitson worked at NASA

for 28 years before retiring in 2018, serving as a biochemist, manager, and project scientist for the Shuttle-Mir program. She then spent 22 years as a NASA astronaut, selected for that role in 1996. Whitson flew her first shuttle mission in 2002 and returned to Earth after a 6-month stay on the ISS, during which she assisted in space station construction and performed multiple life science experiments. She was the first female commander of the ISS on her second 6-month flight in 2007-2008. Her final NASA mission in 2016, when she was again the commander of the ISS, and by the time she returned had accumulated 665 days in space—the U.S. record for most time spent in space for a woman. She also holds the record for most spacewalks of any woman in the world at over 60 hours and was at 60 years of age the oldest person to travel to the ISS. Whitson also served as the Chief of the Astronaut Office (the first female, non-military person in that role), Deputy Chief of the Astronaut Office and Medical Sciences Division, and chaired or served on three different Astronaut Selection Boards. She was named one of TIME magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2018.

The International Space Development Conference is a four-day virtual event that will focus on

key areas of space development: space settlement, space policy, space solar power, lunar development, and international space programs. Some of the finest minds in space exploration and development will be featured, speaking on cutting-edge topics. The ISDC highlights areas of interest laid out in the National Space Society's [Roadmap for Space Settlement](#).

The National Space Society was founded in 1987 via a merger of the National Space Institute, founded to promote citizen support for the American space program, and the L5 Society, based on the work of space settlement pioneer Gerard K. O'Neill. The NSS is the preeminent citizen's voice on space exploration, development, and settlement. For more information go to space.nss.org.

Aggie Kobrin
National Space Society
+1 949-836-8464
[email us here](#)
Visit us on social media:
[Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#)



Dr. Peggy Whitson. Credit: NASA

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