



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Early Career Research

Empowering Emerging Talent across Earth Science

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ECR Program Manager | ECR Support Scientist

2026 Update



Enabling Capabilities

Foundational cross-cutting activities, opportunities, technologies, systems, or processes that benefit all Earth Science Division elements and Science Spheres.



**Airborne
Science
Program**



**Early
Career
Research**



**Ground
Networks,
Calibration
Labs, and
Crowdsourcing**



**Integrated
Earth System
Modeling**





Early Career Research Program

Discovery · Participation · Community · Action

Empowering the next generation of Earth science researchers to create a workforce that enables solutions to benefit society, respond to changes in the Earth's system, and to support the Earth Science to Action Strategy.



FIES2A

First Immersion in Earth Science to Action



SARP

Student Airborne Research Project



FINESST

Future Investigators in NASA Earth and Space Sciences and Technology



ECIP

Early Career Investigator Program in Earth Science



ECR also serves as ESD representative in other NASA opportunities:
Engagement Office, RIA, MUREP, COMPASS, EPSCoR, Space Grants, & Space Apps

Early Career Research Program

Striving for Excellence in Earth Science



Discovery

Support outstanding and innovative scientific research to advance NASA's mission in Earth System Science.



Participation

Enable greater participation in Earth Science by cultivating scientific leadership.



Community

Develop sustained relationships for collaboration and support. Enhance cohort experience.



Action

Make Earth science data more usable and impactful for the benefit of humanity.

We are creating a holistic workforce development experience!

★ Conferences and Career Fairs



★ Social Media Campaigns



★ Carrer Workshops & Webinars



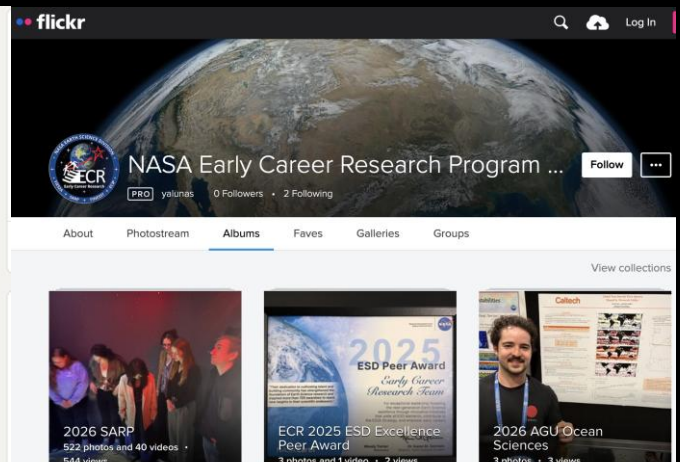
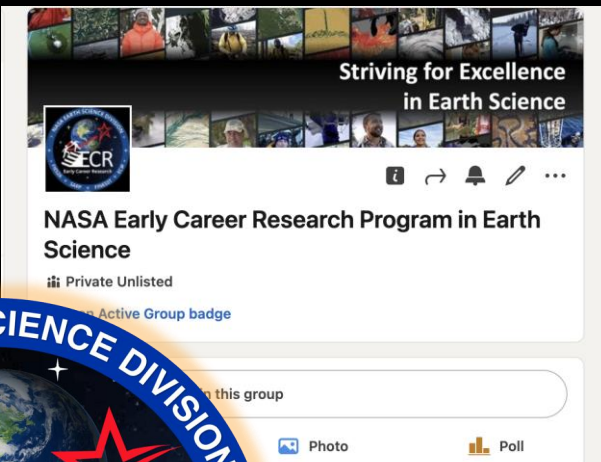
Newsletter



LinkedIn Support Group



Flickr Page



Meet-ups & Travel Support



Cohort Kick-off Meetings

ECR by the Numbers:

3046
(2007–2026)

FIES2A

Total Number of
Students 2026 Cohort
Pre-FIES2A ~

18

FIES2A

Total Number of
Applications
Inaugural Cohort

1,441

SARP

Total Number of SARP
Students since 2009

633

SARP

Total Number of
Applications &
% Increase (2026)

530
16%

FINESST

Total Number of
Awardees (Fis)
since 2007

1,109

FINESST

Total Number of
Proposals Received
2025, % Increase

568
30%

ECIP

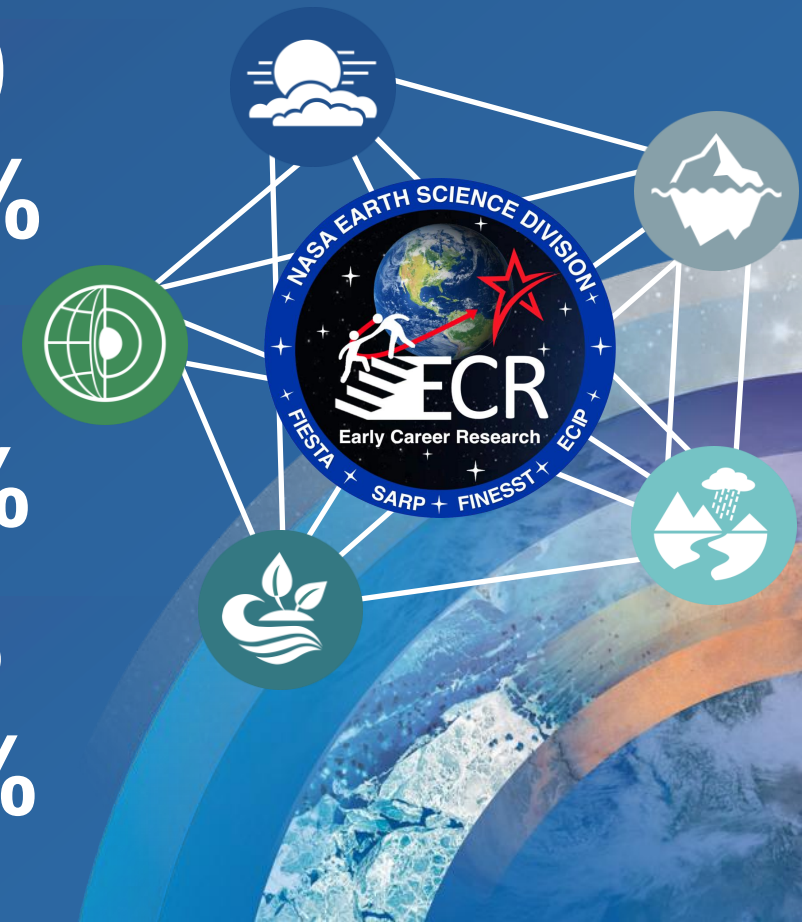
Total Number of
Awardees (PIs) +Students
Since 2017

103
+40

ECIP

Total Number of
Proposals Received
2026 & % Increase

385
84%





FIES2A 2026

For community college and early undergraduate students
18 Students, 3 NASA Centers!



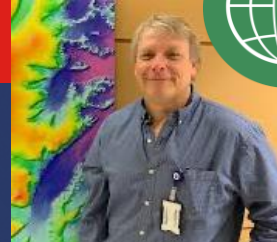
Center: Langley
Mentor: Katherine Travis



Center: Langley
Mentor: Xiaomei Lu



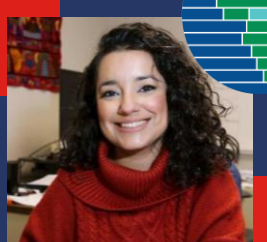
Center: Goddard
Mentor: Denis Felikson



Center: Goddard
Mentor: Scott Luthcke



Center: Goddard
Mentor: Sarah Ringerud



Center: Marshall
Mentor: Africa Flores-Anderson



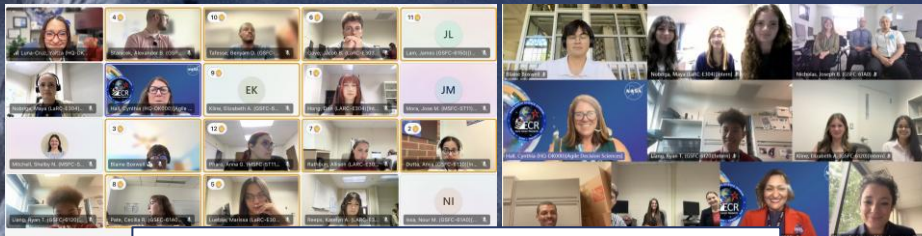
Pandora and TEMPO training at Hampton University with Professor Rueben Delgado



FIES2A Students Met the SARP Students!



For Final Presentations Recordings – Scan the QR Code



ECR Virtual Career Workshops



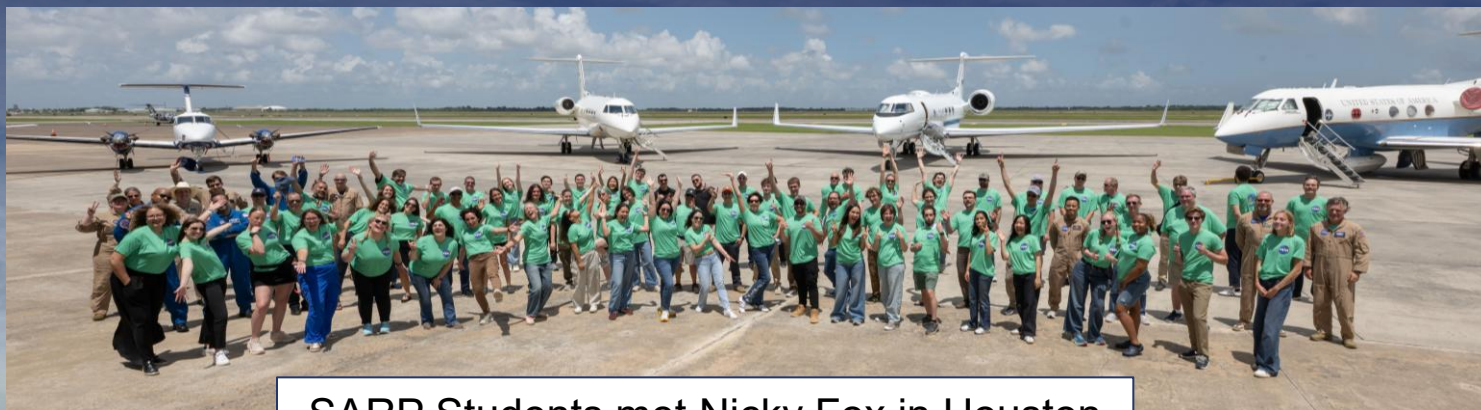
Data Training at Marshall



SARP Updates

48 undergrads
10 graduates
8 Faculty

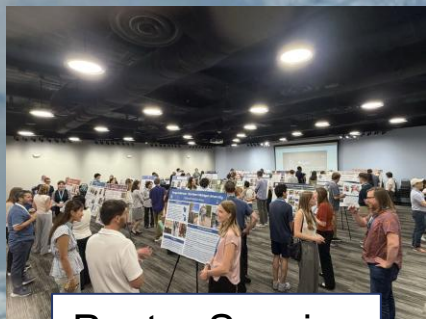
First time all cohorts in Houston with 5 airplanes, research cruise, and field experiments.



SARP Students met Nicky Fox in Houston



SARP Students with NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman in Houston



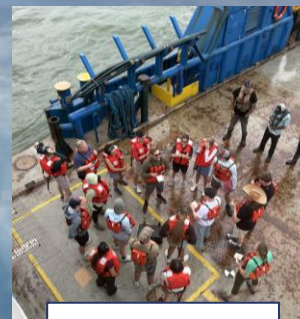
Poster Session



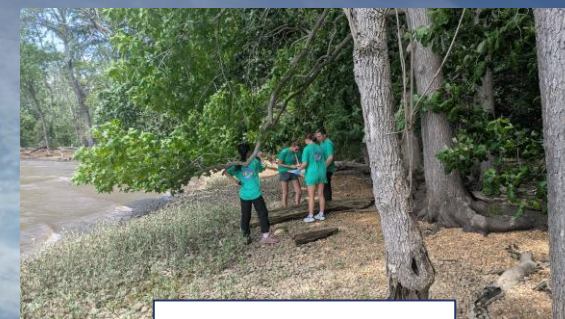
Lectures



Site Visits



Cruise



Field Work



FINEST Updates

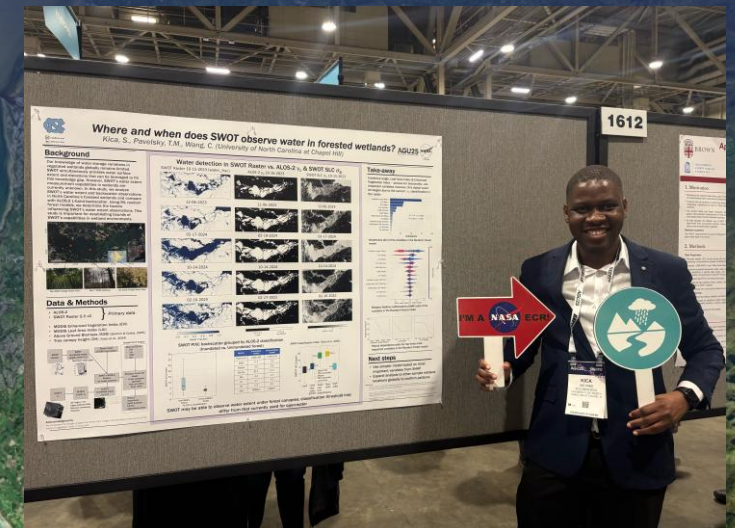


HYDROSPHERE

341 *Current Active Awardees*

Meet **Soloman Kica**,
ROSES24 FINEST awardee
from University of North Carolina
at Chapel Hill

→ Soloman is currently a PhD candidate working on quantifying wetland contribution to global water storage variability, primarily using data from the Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) mission.



Beyond his research with SWOT, Solomon is on the advisory team of a non-profit he co-founded in Uganda, known as MapRI. The organization utilizes satellite imagery and citizen science to address community challenges such as water inaccessibility and service deprivation. With the support and collaboration of other initiatives, MapRI has facilitated resource allocation in more than 30 communities across Uganda.

ECIP Updates



HYDROSPHERE



78 *Current Active Awardees*

Meet **Dr. Laurie Huning**,
ROSES23 ECIP awardee from
California State University, Long
Beach (CSULB)

→ Dr. Huning is currently working in *Advancing the understanding of extreme events and snowpack variability*. The project has led to a peer-reviewed article published in Science Magazine.



Dr. Laurie Huning received the 2025 CSULB's Early Academic Career Excellence Award



Science

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PERSPECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Cascading impacts of natural disasters in a connected world

Multifaceted effects of extreme climate-related events are essential for risk models and management

LAURIE S. HUNING AND MANUELA I. BRUNNER [Authors Info & Affiliations](#)

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→ The article highlight the importance of including the cascading impacts of extreme climate-related events (wildfires, heatwaves, drought, floods) and associated feedbacks in risk and management models, particularly as extreme events are expected to become more severe in the future.

ECR Excellence

FIES2A | SARP | FINESST | ECIP

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF
NASA'S EARLY CAREER RESEARCH
PROGRAM IN EARTH SCIENCE



ABOUT US

The NASA Earth Science Early Career Research (ECR)

Program's vision is to empower the next generation of Earth science researchers to create a workforce that enables solutions to benefit society, respond to changes in the Earth's system, and to support the [Earth Science to Action Strategy](#). ECR is "Striving for excellence in Earth Science" with the following projects:

- First Immersion in Earth Science to Action (FIES2A)
- Student Airborne Research Program (SARP)
- Future Investigators in NASA Earth and Space Sciences and Technology (FINESST)
- Early Career Investigator Program in Earth Science (ECIP)

ECR also serves as Earth Science Division representative in other NASA opportunities: Engagement Office, RIA, MUREP, COMPASS, EPSCoR, Space Grants, & Space Apps.

ECR 2025-2026 HIGHLIGHTS

3046
(2007–2026)

~Total number of high school students, undergraduates, graduates, and early career professionals supported by the NASA ECR Program

35
Over 35 students finished PhDs

70
~70 publications in review

100
Over 100 presentations

78
~78 publications in peer-reviewed journals

CONNECT WITH US!



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

For General Public: NASA Space Apps Challenge on November 14–15

- [Registration Link](#) Opens August 26, 2026

For Community College Students:

NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars (NCAS) Student Challenge

- [Registration](#) is 8/17/26 – 9/28/2026

For Undergraduates: NASA Internships offer short-term, hands-on opportunities for students to work on real NASA projects.

- [Applications](#) for Spring semester due September, 2026

For Post-docs: NASA Postdoctoral Program provides unique research opportunities to engage in ongoing NASA research projects at a NASA Center or NASA HQ.

- [NPP Applications](#) due November 1, 2026.

For Researchers: ROSES solicitations in the Earth Sciences:

- [A.14 Atmosphere](#)
 - Proposals due October 20, 2026
- [A.15 Biosphere](#)
 - Step 1 due September 04, 2026
- [A.13 Accelerating Earth Solutions](#)
 - Proposals due October 15, 2026



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

ECR is seeking for Reviewers
for

**F.5 Future Investigators in NASA Earth and
Space Sciences and Technology**



Panels Timeline
~Oct



Volunteers Form



Must describe expertise in one or more Earth System
Science research areas





ECIP



FINESST



SARP



FIES2A



Megan Ward-Baranyay

Felikson, Denis (GSFC-6150)



THE ECR SHOW





FIES2A



Sarah Ringerud
Hydrosphere Mentor | Goddard

SARP



Mehmet Kurum
SARP Mentor | UGA

FINESST

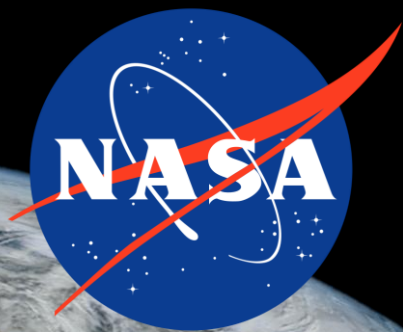


Sara Reinelt
USF College of Marine Science

ECIP



Colin Gleason
Professor, UMass Amherst



Striving for Excellence in Earth Science



#NASAEarthECR
@NASAEarth



The Journey Starts
HERE!