

2020-2021: Jacob Crawford

Jacob Crawford, co-recipient for 2020-2021, is a second year student at UNC Asheville double majoring in Biology and Psychology, and double minoring in Neuroscience and Astronomy. Jacob is a member of UNCA's Honors Program, as well as a docent at UNCA's Lookout Observatory. As a docent, he is currently participating in a 3rd grade "Space Questions" program, in which he answers questions about the cosmos submitted by local third grade students.

"It's great to have the opportunity to help get kids interested in space, especially because my interest in space began at around the same age," Jacob commented. When Jacob was in middle school, he competed on his school's Science Olympiad team for the "Solar System" event. The "Solar System" event required him and his partner to study the subsurface oceans of Europa, Enceladus, and Titan, and ultimately culminated in an invitation to the 2015 National Science Olympiad Tournament, where they placed 8th.

Jacob closely follows the development of SpaceX's reusable super-heavy launch vehicle, Starship. "There's no telling how many hours I've watched live streams of Starship's development. I can't wait to see how a fully reusable rocket of this scale accelerates our ability to explore our solar system."

Jacob hopes to someday work in the field of regenerative medicine.