

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Project Ianos Launches Free Online STEAM Learning Program To Inspire Future Explorers and Create Tomorrow's Dynamic Workforce**

*Powerful content inspired by human space exploration with lesson plans designed for and developed by educators*

**BOSTON** – The [Project Ianos](#) team of leading education specialists, storytellers, and space organizations today launched its free online learning program designed to ignite curiosity in the next generation of explorers using the inspirational story of human space exploration. Featuring compelling videos and hands-on learning tools, the science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM)-based program specifically targets underrepresented students in grades 5–8 and helps them envision exciting futures in STEAM fields.

“When students become curious about a topic, they get excited and their horizons expand. That’s our goal with Project Ianos – to spark the imaginations of these young minds and showcase the diverse opportunities available to them whether they work on Earth, on the Moon or on Mars,” said Dr. Andy Aldrin, president of the Aldrin Family Foundation and principal investigator for Project Ianos. “By engaging in these missions, students will realize their potential and see themselves reflected in the men and women who are on the frontline of NASA’s return to the Moon. Meanwhile, we lay the foundation for a strong and diverse future STEAM workforce.”

Project Ianos’ free and downloadable, digital curriculum begins with expedition videos produced and hosted by world-renowned explorer and award-winning television presenter [Josh Bernstein](#). In each engaging episode, Explorer Josh interviews engineers, scientists, and leaders from NASA and the space industry who are designing and launching missions to the Moon and beyond. All episodes combine historic and current-day footage from NASA missions to share the awe-inspiring story of the past, present, and future of human space exploration.

Alongside each episode, students participate in corresponding “missions” or hands-on learning activities rooted in a story-based scenario from Explorer Josh. These are often experiments and design experiences that students may have never encountered in a traditional science class. These include testing “rocket propellant” ratios, purifying “wastewater,” repairing mock spacesuit gloves, and designing, building, and using equipment for astronaut fitness programs. All missions align with national education standards and can be adapted to both individual and group learning environments. Teachers and educators outside of the classroom benefit from consistently organized, comprehensive learning plans that they can follow, coupled with mission journals that provide illustrated instructions for all student tasks.

“Project Ianos was designed by educators for educators. The videos, expeditions, and missions complement and build on each other, creating an ecosystem that is easy to understand and fun to implement,” said Bernstein. “We’re excited for middle school teachers and students to step into the world of human spaceflight through this new STEM program.”

The online course walks educators through each expedition and mission, highlighting unique aspects of each activity and guidance on implementation in the classroom, online or in blended environments. Educators can also share their Project Ianos experiences and tips in an online community.

Project Ianos team partners include the [Aldrin Family Foundation](#), [Explorer At Large](#), [Public Consulting Group](#), the [University of Kansas](#), [Club for the Future](#), and several [NASA](#) Centers. In October 2020, NASA selected Project Ianos (one of seven out of 95 submissions) for a one-year grant under the [Teams Engaging Affiliated Museums and Informal Institutions \(TEAM II\) Remote Opportunity Rapid Response \(RORR\)](#) initiative.

To register for free access to the materials or to learn more, visit the [Project Ianos](#) website. Stay connected to Project Ianos by following us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

### **About Project Ianos**

[Project Ianos](#) is a collaboration among leading education specialists, space organizations and communications experts to strengthen student understanding of science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM). Through professional videos and hands-on activities aligned with education standards, students take an inspirational journey into the past, present and future of human space exploration and become explorers themselves. Led by the Aldrin Family Foundation, other Project Ianos partners include Explorer At Large, Public Consulting Group, the University of Kansas, Club for the Future, and NASA Centers. Through established distribution channels, primarily focused in reaching underserved and underrepresented communities, a projected 3.8 million students in grades 5–8, will benefit from Project Ianos' content.

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