

WSGC 2024 Fall AC Meeting
First Nations Launch Update Report

Rob Cannon

First Nations Launch is closing out its 15th annual competition from April 26-27, with 23 teams, comprised of more than 192 students joined us in Kenosha for our culminating event. This year's focus was on Payloads, with Moon Challenge teams designing and developing a lander. In contrast, the Mars Challenge teams were tasked with designing drones meant to deploy during flight and be piloted to designated landing zones. Unfortunately, weather conditions restricted the payloads from being deployed, but the teams all adapted to the conditions well.

The two grand prize teams from Moon and Mars, Northern Oklahoma College and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, have been invited to the Kennedy Space Center for a VIP Tour August 26-28. Currently, the itinerary includes a bus tour around the KSC and Space Force space complexes, visits to various KSC laboratories and facilities, a visit to Blue Origin's Florida facility, and a day at the Visitor Complex, where the students will be provided an opportunity to meet former astronaut, Fred Gregory.

Turtle Mountain Community College received the Next Step Award to participate in the RockOn! Program at Wallops Flight Facility in June. The weeklong workshop allowed the participants to construct their own payload that was launched at the end of the program.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology received the Next Step Award to participate in the 2025 NASA Student Launch.

Preparations are underway for the formal announcement of the 16th Annual FNL Competition. The focus of the upcoming competition, will be on Avionics. The official announcement will go out on September 1.

We will be attending the AISES Conference this October in San Antonio, Texas. As the date of the conference is prior to our NOI dates, we are confident that we will be at our goal of 24 US teams this year. There is some room above that to allow for our Canadian competitors to join us. In consideration of how the competition is floating around capacity, we are changing up the competition entry requirements for the Moon and Mars teams in that they will submit their proposals at NOI. This will allow us a method to review and downselect teams, with a limited wait list if teams drop out.

We have started working with September Club as our new media team. They were able to join us for this past launch weekend and have been working hard to pull together a sizzle reel while they are working on creating a larger project to showcase the competition.

2024 FNL AWARD WINNERS					
MOON				MARS	
Written Report			Written Report		
	1st Place	Carthage College		1st Place	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
	2nd Place	Northern Oklahoma College		2nd Place	University of California, Los Angeles
	3rd Place	University of California, Davis		3rd Place	Queen's University
Oral Presentation			Oral Presentation		
	1st Place	Honolulu Community College		1st Place	Queen's University
	2nd Place	University of California, Davis		2nd Place	University of California, Los Angeles
	3rd Place	University of Waterloo		3rd Place	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Grand Prize Award		<i>U.S. Teams</i>	Grand Prize Award		<i>U.S. Teams</i>
	1st Place	Northern Oklahoma College		1st Place	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (104.72)
	2nd Place	Honolulu Community College		2nd Place	University of California, Los Angeles (100.82)
	3rd Place	Carthage College		3rd Place	University of Washington (100.41)
		<i>International Teams</i>	Mars	Mars - 2nd Place	Queen's University (101.44)

OVERALL

- OUTREACH AWARD:** Queen's University
- ALTITUDE AWARD:** University of Colorado, Boulder
- AESTHETIC AWARD:** University of Hawai'i at Manoa
- PATCH DESIGN AWARD:** Evie Clarke, University of Colorado, Boulder
- NOBILE AWARD:** White Earth Tribal and Community College
- JUDGE'S AWARD:** College of Menominee Nation
- SPIRIT AWARD:** University of Washington
- ADVISOR AWARD:** Melanie Howard, Queen's University
- TEAM LEAD AWARD:** Grace Pardini, University of Washington
- ROOKIE TEAM AWARD:** Haskell Indian Nations University
- SAFETY AWARD:**
 - Honolulu Community College
 - University of Washington

NEXT STEP AWARDS

- RockOn!2024:** Turtle Mountain Community College
- Student Launch 2025:** Massachusetts Institute of Technology