

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)  
Enabling the Future - Developing the Space Workforce (5)

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PREPARING YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FOR PROJECT AND ENGINEERING LEADERSHIP AT  
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**Abstract**

With an average age of 47, NASA's workforce faces challenges bridging the "grey-green" divide between its highly experienced senior employees and young professionals who will take the agency into the next decade. In response to this need, the NASA Academy of Program/Project Engineering Leadership (APPEL) has undertaken a Young Professionals Initiative to ensure that the agency meets the workforce development needs of young practitioners in project management and engineering. Activities have included: collaboration with Aviation Week on an annual survey of young professionals in aerospace; young professional participation in knowledge sharing forums; events co-hosted in collaboration with the IAF's Workforce Development/Young Professionals Program Committee, including a Masters with Masters event with leaders of the European Space Agency (ESA), German Aerospace Center (DLR), and NASA in 2011; an ongoing series of personal profiles of young professionals in APPEL's ASK Magazine; and social media outreach strategies to connect with young professionals across the aerospace enterprise. APPEL plans to continue developing new activities for this initiative in 2012-2013.