The Wisconsin Space Grant Consortium (WSCG) is a joint effort between NASA and organizations state wide. WSCG is dedicated to helping provide Wisconsin students, researchers, educators, businesses, not-for-profit organizations and other stakeholders with the tools, connections and resources needed to make the aerospace community in the state of Wisconsin thrive and grow.

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Plenary Address:
Gravitational Wave Astronomy and Quantum Noise
Plenary Speaker: Thomas Corbitt, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Physics Louisiana State University

Thomas Corbitt received his undergraduate degree from Georgia Tech in 2001. He began working with the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) at the Hanford facility. He received his Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and was advised by Nergis Mavalvala—known for her role in the first observation of gravitational waves. After receiving his Ph.D., he continued at MIT as a post-doctoral associate before accepting his current position at Louisiana State University in 2011. Corbitt’s research has focused on quantum noise in gravitational wave detectors and how that noise may be mitigated by the use of squeezed light and opto-mechanics to make the next generation more sensitive.

Workshop:
Being Spacegrant's Messenger: Increasing Minority Representation in STEM
Workshop Speaker: Brian Chad Starks, Ph.D.
CEO, BCS & Associates Consulting Firm
Associate Director, Delaware Space Grant Consortium

Brian Chad Starks, Ph.D., is a speaker, author and critical criminologist. He received his B.A. in sociology from Wofford College, M.A. in criminal justice from the University of South Carolina and Ph.D. in criminology from the University of Delaware. His dissertation examined the social organizational structure of bail systems in large cities. For more than twenty years, he has worked to build social justice and equity for individuals, organizations and communities. He is the CEO of BCS & Associates Consulting Firm and serves as the Associate Director with the Delaware NASA Space Grant Consortium where he works to increase minority student representation.