

2026 Winter Conference

Lone Star Flight
Museum

February 23, 2026



N.E.X.T. =
Navigating Change,
Embracing Possibilities,
Leveraging Xponential Tech
and AI.

Agenda

Time	Topic	Presenter
8:00	Networking Breakfast	
8:30	Welcome and Opening Remarks – JSC SBC	Cindy Hendershot, Rothe Enterprises, ELT Chair
8:40	Keynote/Opening Speaker – Identifying Opportunities through Changing Times	Laurie Hall, New Horizons Strategies
9:15	SB/LB Matchmaking Round 1 (one on one format)	Alternate activities in the Heritage Hangar: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Holo AI Tech Demo by AEXA / Fernando De La Peña• SBC Bingo
10:30	SB/LB Matchmaking Round 2 (one on one format)	
11:30	AI and Cyber for Aerospace Systems	Dave Marquette, JSC OCIO
12:00	Networking Lunch	
1:00	USSF and the Ecosystem of Military and Civil Space	Jake LaSarge, USAF and Brian Strack, Chief, DoD Human Space Flight Support, JSC Houston

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Time	Topic	Presenter
1:30	Office of Small Business Programs update	Tumarrow Romain, Small Business Specialist
1:45	Small Business Administration update	Nijua Heard, Procurement Center Representative
2:15	JSC Updates and Post Deferred Resignation Program (DRP) Operations	Donna Shafer, Associate Center Director, JSC
3:00	JSC Leadership Panel – Theme: Opportunities and Challenges in FY2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Angela Hart, Program Manager, Commercial LEO Destinations (CLD)• Stephanie Sipila, Deputy Manager, EHP Technology Integration & Partnerships• Jay LeBeau, Deputy Director of JSC Engineering• Michelle Frieling, Director, Human Health & Performance• Monty Goforth, JSC CTO
4:00	Closing Remarks – NASA Procurement Updates, FAR updates, implementation, challenges; Q&A	Brad Niese, JSC Procurement Director
4:30	Sponsor Appreciation Reception & Lone Star Flight Museum Open House	

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Keynote Speaker



Laurie Hall

Founder of New Horizon Strategies

Laurie Hall's vision is to be the champion inspiring sustainable change in the professional world to help everyone come alive. "Don't ask yourself what the world needs -- ask yourself what makes you come alive and then go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive." (Howard Thurman)

Laurie Hall is a certified facilitator, certified coach, and seasoned speaker – founded New Horizon Strategies in 2011 to inspire sustainable change in the professional world. New Horizon Strategies guides leaders who are facing a change by themselves and feeling stuck. We help them reflect, resonate, resolve, and refocus so they get bigger breakthroughs faster. Through our executive coaching, facilitation, and consulting, leaders move from transition to transformation. We provide individual, team, and enterprise transformation services to not only survive transition (which seems never-ending) but thrive with sustainable, positive change.

From the JSC Director's Office



Donna M. Shafer

Johnson Associate Director

Donna M. Shafer is the associate center director of NASA's Johnson Space Center, a position she assumed in March 2019. Shafer assists in leading a workforce of more than 10,000 civil servant and contractor employees at one of NASA's largest Houston and the White Sands Test Facility in Las Cruces, New Mexico. She also assists with a broad range of human space

Since July 2018, Shafer most recently served as chief counsel in Johnson's Office of the Chief Counsel. Prior to that, Shafer served as the deputy chief counsel since 2007 and the acting chief counsel since May 2017.

Shafer's NASA career at Johnson began in 1989, when she was an Information Security specialist. She joined the Office of the Chief Counsel in 1997, where she has held positions with increasing responsibility. Shafer has experience in all legal practice areas and has served as the assistant chief counsel for Procurement matters, assistant chief counsel for international and commercial law, and assistant chief counsel for general legal matters.

From the JSC Procurement Office



Eric Schell

Deputy Director – JSC Office of Procurement

Eric began his career at JSC as the Team Lead for ISS Transportation and Utilization, ISS Changes & Analysis Teams. He then moved to Team Lead for the Exploration Systems Changes and Analysis Teams. He then became Manager for the Exploration Systems Procurement Office. He is the Competition Advocate for Procurement. His background is Supply Chain Management.

On the horizon...

2026 Spring/Summer Event

Location and Date TBD

