



Space Diplomacy: From Classroom to Cosmos

Space science is increasingly recognised as a driver of innovation, international cooperation, skills development, and societal resilience. In this context, an Embassy Lecture, *Freedom250 U.S. Speaker Program* hosted by ASSAf in partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria, SDCfA, and the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation, offers a timely platform to explore how science diplomacy can deepen collaboration in space science, STEM education, and inclusive innovation.



The lecture will draw on **Dorothy Metcalf-Lindenburger's** experience as a NASA astronaut, educator, and communicator to inspire dialogue on the human dimension of space exploration, the importance of scientific literacy, and the value of international partnerships. Her background as an educator-astronaut and her continued work in public engagement make her a compelling voice on how space science can connect policy, research, youth development, and global cooperation. The event will also highlight South Africa's role in space science and the broader potential for U.S.–South Africa cooperation in research, training, outreach, and diplomatic engagement.

Date:

29 July 2026

Time:

09:00–11:30

Venue:

CSIR International
Convention Centre, Pretoria

RSVP:

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The lecture aims to:

- Foster dialogue among diplomats, scientists, policymakers, and the public on the strategic value of space science for development and cooperation.
- Showcase the role of science diplomacy in strengthening space science cooperation between South Africa, the United States, and African partners.
- Inspire students, early-career researchers, and young professionals to pursue careers in space science, engineering, and related fields.
- Highlight opportunities for collaboration in education, outreach, skills development, and public engagement.



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