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PRESS RELEASE

**From Thessaloniki to Space: NASA Astronaut Bonnie Dunbar at the
Aristotle Innovation Forum**

Thessaloniki, 14/5/2026

Distinguished NASA astronaut and Professor of Aerospace Engineering at Texas A&M University, Dr. Bonnie J. Dunbar, will deliver a lecture at the Aristotle Innovation Forum titled “Thinking Outside the Sphere: Human Exploration of Space” on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, from 17:00 to 17:30, at Pavilion 15 of the Thessaloniki International Fair.

In her lecture, Dr. Bonnie J. Dunbar will present humanity’s fascinating journey from the dream of flight to the modern era of space exploration. From the myths of Daedalus, Pegasus, Hermes, and Nike, to the designs of Leonardo da Vinci, the historic Wright brothers’ flight in 1903, the first low Earth orbit missions, the Moon landing, and the era of space stations, the lecture will highlight the milestones that shaped humanity’s relationship with space.

Particular emphasis will be placed on the transition from the Apollo program and the Salyut, Skylab, and International Space Station programs to the Space Shuttle program, which completed 135 flights over three decades and supported thousands of experiments in life sciences, biology, physics, and technology.

Dr. Bonnie J. Dunbar will connect this historical overview with the new era of lunar and Martian exploration, as shaped by the Artemis program, international collaborations, and the Artemis Accords. Drawing on her personal experience in spaceflight and her involvement in NASA’s strategic planning, she will present a vision of a future in which human space exploration serves as a field of cooperation among nations, scientific communities, and technological ecosystems.

Brief Biography of Dr. Bonnie J. Dunbar

Dr. Bonnie J. Dunbar is Professor of Aerospace Engineering at Texas A&M University (TAMU), a member of the National Academy of Engineering, holder of the John & Bea Slattery Chair, and Director of the Aerospace Human Systems Laboratory. She has participated in five NASA Space Shuttle missions and brings extensive experience in human spaceflight, microgravity, strategic space program development, and the design of systems that support human presence in space. Her visit to Thessaloniki follows an invitation by Professor Nikolaos Michaelides of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the Faculty of Engineering of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, within the framework of the long-standing collaboration between the two universities.

The Aristotle Innovation Forum — one of the most dynamic innovation forums in Southeastern Europe — is organized by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki from May 17 to May 23, 2026.

The AIF is held under the auspices of His Excellency the President of the Hellenic Republic, Mr. Konstantinos An. Tasoulas, with the support of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs & Sports, the Municipality of Thessaloniki, and the Region of Central Macedonia, while the Thessaloniki International Fair serves as a strategic partner. Major sponsors include PPC and Piraeus Bank.

The event is open to the public.

More information: [https://aristotleforum.auth.gr/Event-Page – Bonnie Dunbar NASA Astronaut](https://aristotleforum.auth.gr/Event-Page-Bonnie-Dunbar-NASA-Astronaut)

We kindly request that this event be published, broadcast, and covered by the media.