



Press Release

NSS Press Release
For Immediate Release

Frances Dellutri
frances.dellutri@nss.org
(202) 424-2899
www.nss.org

"Tudor Vianu" National High School of Computer Science Students Debate Space Policy in International Virtual Debate Tournament

Washington, D.C. June 7, 2020: The National Space Society, (<https://space.nss.org/>) the leader in grass roots space advocacy, hosted the spUN Virtual Debates 2020, a ground-breaking approach to involving students from around the world to debate topics on space policy and UNiversalization (spUN). The topics debated with a lens of diversity and inclusion of all and cooperative competition in advancing space policy.

"Tudor Vianu" National High School of Computer Science students Rebecca Andrei, Harry Girlea, Mara Iancu, Andrei Marin and Flaviu-Christian Verde were selected from 150 international students to participate in the global program.

Students completed an intense application and on-line course with the final selection resulting in 9 teams of 4 students each comprised of Romanian, Indian, and United States students. Further preparation continued virtually with coaches connecting from Korea, India, and the US. The spUN 2020 Debates were originally planned for the International Space Development Conference (ISDC) (<https://isdc2020.nss.org/>) hosted by NSS in late May; however the COVID-19 pandemic required a pivot to a completely virtual platform for the remainder of the debate preparation and the tournament itself.

"I speak in the highest regards of the "Tudor Vianu" National High School of Computer Science students in terms of their ability to positively respond to the COVID pandemic limitations, juggle local e-learning requirements, family concerns, isolation issues, and differences in language, culture, and time zones, while completing the requirements of the spUN preparations," said NSS VP of Education and Outreach Lynne F. Zielinski. "The spUN Debates have been a topic of conversation at the highest levels of the National Space Society. NSS leadership is very impressed with these students embracing and succeeding in the virtual debate platform to present outstanding arguments."

The 16-session double elimination spUN Virtual Debates took place on May 29 – 31, 2020 and the final debates were held on June 6, 2020. The spUN Virtual Debates 2020 can be viewed on:

[SpacEdge Academy YouTube](#) and <https://www.facebook.com/NSS/>

About NSS: The National Space Society was founded in 1987 via a merger of the National Space Institute, founded by NASA's Wernher von Braun, and the L5 Society, based on the work of space settlement pioneer Gerard K. O'Neill. NSS is the preeminent citizen's voice on space exploration and development. To learn more about the NSS and its mission to establish humanity as a spacefaring species, visit us on the web at <https://space.nss.org/>.