



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The 2025 Nancy Grace Roman Award from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific (ASP) is awarded to Laura Lopez, Professor at The Ohio State University (OSU) for her transformative efforts on diversity and inclusion through advocacy and mentoring of students.**

**San Francisco, California – September 10, 2025** - Named for an icon in the history of astronomy research and space exploration, ASP's Nancy Grace Roman Award was introduced in 2023 to recognize an individual or group for significant contributions to promoting gender equity and inclusion in astronomy and related fields. The **2025 Nancy Grace Roman Award** goes to **Dr. Laura Lopez** not just for her undeniable dedication as a leader in the study of supernova remnants and massive star feedback processes in galaxies, but also her dedication to promoting gender equity and inclusion in astronomy and her vigorous support to students from historically marginalized groups.

Prof. Lopez membership and as current co-Chair of the Committee on the Status of Minorities in Astronomy (CSMA) and her 10 years as an active member of the American Astronomical Society (AAS) has led to her significant role in introducing initiatives to increase gender and minority representation and retention in all levels of astronomy. Her work at OSU includes being a faculty sponsor of *BlackinAstro*, a national initiative to amplify the experiences and accomplishments of Black students and researchers in space-related fields. She also supports OSU's Polaris mentorship program and as one nominator professes, "by launching new leaders into our community and by stewarding these programs, Prof. Lopez multiplicatively increases her already very large impact."

Prof. Lopez is also a researcher focusing on the complex web of interactions between star formation in galaxies, the massive stars this process produces, and the feedback of massive stars on the star formation process. While many astronomers spend their careers studying one of the ultraviolet, optical, infrared, radio, gamma-ray, or X-ray bands, Lopez employs them all using them to provide physical constraints on the systems she investigates. She is also a highly decorated teacher, lecturing, broadcasting, and writing widely and explaining complex concepts with clarity.

Directly advising and mentoring to support students from historically marginalized groups in STEM, Prof. Lopez has trained graduate and undergraduate postdocs, many who have been awarded prestigious postdoctoral and faculty positions at many highly regarded programs in the world. Her research, scientific leadership, and contributions to inclusion and equity have been recognized with many prestigious awards, most notably being named a Fellow of the American Astronomical Society for extensive contributions to advancing equity and inclusion in astronomy and physics through transformative mentorship programs and for nearly 20 years of national leadership in the AAS.

Summarized by one nominee, Lopez "is an exceptional scientist, a celebrated and transformative mentor to students and postdocs, and a trailblazing leader for women and historically marginalized groups in astrophysics."



Join us in celebration of Laura Lopez's achievements at the in-person ASP Awards Gala on Saturday, November 8, 2025 at the Hilton San Francisco Airport Bayfront, Burlingame, CA.

### **About the ASP**

The Astronomical Society of the Pacific (ASP), established in 1889, is a 501c3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to use astronomy to increase the understanding and appreciation of science and to advance science and science literacy. The ASP connects scientists, educators, amateur astronomers and the public together to learn about astronomical research, improve astronomy education, and share resources that engage learners of all kinds in the excitement and adventure of scientific discovery. Current ASP programs and initiatives support college faculty, K-12 science teachers, amateur astronomy clubs, science museums, libraries, park rangers, and Girl Scouts to name a few.

Through its annual awards, ASP recognizes achievement in research, technology, education, and public outreach. The awards include the ASP's highest honor, the Catherine Wolfe Bruce Gold Medal awarded since 1898 for a lifetime of outstanding research in astronomy. The Bruce Medal has gone to some of the greatest astronomers of the past century, including Arthur Eddington, Edwin P. Hubble, Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar, and Vera Rubin. The ASP also presents the Klumpke-Roberts Award for outstanding contributions to the public understanding and appreciation of astronomy. Awardees include Carl Sagan, Isaac Asimov, and the Hubble Heritage Project.

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