

Dear Associate Administrator Steve Shih,

The plasma physics community is disturbed and saddened by NASA leadership's recent termination of the test project at Goddard Space Flight Center that allowed employees to display their pronouns in official agency identifiers, as well as reports that this policy change was communicated in a manner that disrespected employees' identities. Public statements from NASA in response have done little to address the concerns of the LGBT+ community and fail to commit to restoring this option and making it available to all NASA employees.

As members of a professional society spanning a wide range of career statuses from students to scientists and faculty, we want to emphasize that voluntary (or opt-in) usage of personal pronouns in display names, screen names, and other forms of ID is a professional practice that is widely used at many institutions, both public and private, and a low-cost tool for affirming the gender identities of employees.

We are deeply concerned by individual accounts that employees were told by leadership that their pronouns were removed because they made others uncomfortable. An environment that discourages employees from disclosing their gender identities can lead to misgendering and other harmful outcomes for marginalized individuals. Shaming vulnerable employees for displaying their pronouns in this manner is unprofessional and unacceptable.

We urge NASA to choose a standard of practice that gives employees the flexibility to use and display their preferred pronouns at their own discretion. We note with interest that NASA has described this policy as successful, and we are dismayed that this successful policy was terminated with no notice, and that NASA has failed to provide an equivalent service. This is a significant step backwards on NASA's journey toward creating a diverse and equitable workforce.

Signed,
Derek Schaeffer (Chair, he/him)
on behalf of the APS DPP Pride Committee

Alex Friedman
LLNL

Amy Keesee (she/her)
Associate Professor
University of New Hampshire

Andrew McCubbin
University of Iowa

Anu Timple (she/her)
Engineering Physics Major

Axel Huebl (he/him/his)
Dr. rer. nat.

Benjamin Faber (He/him/his)
Research Scientist
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Ms. Beth Tarduno (Ms.)

Calvin Lau (he/him)
Scientist
TAE Technologies

Cameron Geddes (he/him/his)
LBNL

Cameron Kuchta (they/them)
Graduate Student
UW-Madison

Christopher Schroeder (he)
Computational Physicist
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Cole D. Stephens (He/Him)
Postdoc
Institute for Fusion Studies, University of Texas at Austin

David Mauzey (he/him)
Technician III
PPPL

David Schaffner (He/Him/His)
Associate Professor
Bryn Mawr College

Debbie Brodbar
Editor
APS

Derek Thuecks (he/him)
Associate Professor
Washington College

Eli Parke (they/them)
Scientist
TAE Technologies, Inc.

Elizabeth Merritt
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Emil Broemmelsiek (he/him)
Staff Engineer
CU Aerospace

Emily Lichko (she/her)
Postdoctoral Fellow
University of Arizona

Federica Coppari (she/her/hers)
Research Scientist

Felipe Salvador (He/His)
University of São Paulo

Greg Severn (he, him, his)
Professor of Physics
Dept. Physics & Biophysics, University of San Diego

Greg Sinclair (he/him/his)
Scientist
General Atomics

Gregory Wallace (he/him)
Research Scientist
MIT

Hannah Hasson (She/her)
PhD Candidate
University of Rochester

Jack Hare (He/Him)
Assistant Professor
MIT

Jacob Eisen (He/Him/His)
Graduate Student Researcher

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

James (Jimmy) Juno (He/Him/His)
Staff Research Physicist
Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory

James Titus
Scientist
TAE Technologies

Jason TenBarge
Princeton University

Jeff Woolstrum
University of Michigan

Joseph Olson (he/him/his)
Scientist
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Joseph Schumer (He/him/his)

Josh Stackhouse (he/him/his)
Graduate student researcher
LBNL

Joshua Brown (He/him)
Senior Optical Engineer

Laurel Marsh (she/they series)
PhD Candidate and Teaching Assistant
University of Washington (formerly NASA Wallops and Mississippi State University)

Louise Willingale (she/her)
Assistant Professor
University of Michigan

Manjit Kaur
UCI

Maria Gatu Johnson (she/her)
Research Scientist
MIT

Marisa Petrusky (she/her)
PhD Student
CU Boulder

Marissa B. P. Adams (she/her, they/them)
PhD Candidate
University of Rochester

Mel Abler (they/them)
Postdoctoral Research Associate
Space Science Institute

Mingsheng Wei (She/Her)
University of Rochester

Moises Angulo Enriquez (He/him)
Graduate research assistant
UIUC

Morgan Styer (she/her)
Manufacturing supervisor / welding engineer
Princeton Plasma Physics Lab

Nicholas Murphy
Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian

Noah Hurst
UW - Madison

Paul Campbell (he/him)
University of Michigan

Peter Heuer (he/him/his)
Assistant Scientist
Laboratory for Laser Energetics

Sam Major (They/them)
Undergraduate
Colorado School of Mines

Samuel Greess (He/Him)
PhD Student
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Saskia Mordijck (she/her/hers)
Assistant Professor
W&M

Serena Dalena (she/her/hers)
Associate Editor
Physical Review Letters, APS

SJ Spencer (he/they)
Postdoctoral scholar
UCLA

Stephanie Diem

Stephen Vincena (he/him)
Research Physicist
UCLA

Theodore Biewer (he/him)
Senior Scientist

Thomas Varnish (he/him)
PhD Student
MIT

Trevor Johannes Smith (He/Him/His)
Graduate Student Researcher
University of Michigan and Sandia National Laboratories

Yasmeen Musthafa (they/them/theirs)
Junior Scientist
TAE Technologies