NASA IRTF-KECK Users Group (NIKUG)
Executive Committee Members

Statia Cook
American Museum of Natural History
New York, New York

Start Date: Aug. 1, 2018
End Date: July 31, 2024 (2 terms)
shcook@amnh.org

Michael Cushing
Department of Physics and Astronomy
The University of Toledo
Toledo, OH

Start Date: Aug. 1, 2022
End Date: July 31, 2025
michael.cushing@utoledo.edu

Kishalay De
MIT Kavli Institute for Astrophysics and
Space Research
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, MA

Start Date: May 1, 2023
End Date: April 30, 2026
kdel@mit.edu

Joshua Emery
Dept. of Astronomy and Planetary Sciences
Northern Arizona University
Flagstaff, AZ

Start Date: April 1, 2021
End Date: July 31, 2024
joshua.emery@nau.edu

Kate Follette
Department of Physics and Astronomy
Amherst College
Amherst, MA

Start Date: February 1, 2023
End Date: January 31, 2026
kfollette@amherst.edu

Rohini Giles
Department of Space Science
Southwest Research Institute
San Antonio, TX

Start Date: April 1, 2021
End Date: January 31, 2024
rohini.giles@swri.org

Heather Kaluna
Department of Physics and Astronomy
University of Hawai’i at Hilo
Hilo, Hawai’i

Start Date: Aug. 1, 2020
End Date: July 31, 2023
kaluna@hawaii.edu

Steve Kawaler
Department of Physics and Astronomy
Iowa State University
Ames, Iowa

Start Date: Aug. 1, 2019
End Date: July 31, 2024 (2+3 year term)
sdk@iastate.edu

Varsha Kulkarni
Department of Physics and Astronomy
University of South Carolina
Colombia, SC

Start Date: Aug. 1, 2020
End Date: July 31, 2023
kulkarni@sc.edu

Revision Date: January 24, 2023
Laura Woodney
Department of Physics
California State University
San Bernardino, CA

Start Date: Aug. 1, 2022
End Date: July 31, 2025 (2nd 3 year term)
woodney@csusb.edu

NASA IRTF-KECK ASSOCIATES and NASA HQ CONTACTS

Beichman, Chas
Executive Director, NASA Exoplanet Science Institute
Pasadena, CA

Office: (626) 395-1996
chas@ipac.caltech.edu
Admin.: Alice Hang (626) 395-1806
alice@ipac.caltech.edu

Blackwood, Gary
Exoplanet Exploration Program Manager
JPL, MS 180-701
Pasadena, CA

gary.h.blackwood@jpl.nasa.gov
Admin.: Karla Miller (818)354-4014
Karla.miller@jpl.nasa.gov

Cox, Lucien
ExEP Program Executive
Astrophysics Division
Science Mission Directorate
NASA Headquarters
Washington, DC

elbert.l.cox@nasa.gov
(202) 358-2164

Davis, Chris
Program Director
Div. Astronomical Sciences
National Science Foundation
Arlington, VA

chrdavis@nsf.gov
(703) 292-4910

Fast, Kelly
IRTF Program Scientist
Planetary Science Division
NASA Headquarters
Washington, DC

Kelly.e.fast@nasa.gov
(202) 358-0768

Gelino, Dawn
Keck Operations Scientist
NASA Exoplanet Science Institute
Pasadena, CA

dawn@ipac.caltech.edu
(626) 395-1845
O’Meara, John  
*Chief Scientist*  
W. M. Keck Observatory  
Kameula, HI  
jomeara@keck.hawaii.edu  
(808) 881-3855

Perez, Mario  
*Keck Program Executive*  
NASA Headquarters  
Washington, DC  
Mario.Perez@nasa.gov  
(202) 358-1535

Rayner, John  
*IRTF Director*  
Institute for Astronomy  
Univ. of Hawaii  
Honolulu, HI  
rayner@ifa.hawaii.edu  
(808) 956-9846

Simons, Doug  
*Director*  
Institute for Astronomy  
Univ. of Hawaii  
Honolulu, HI  
dsims@hawaii.edu  
(808) 956-8566  
Admin. Karen Toyoma (808) 956-8566  
toyama@ifa.hawaii.edu