

# Kepner-Tregoe Excellence Awards Ceremony 2024

## Our keynote speakers

**Dr Gary Blackwood, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (retired)**



Gary Blackwood, PhD, recently retired from a 35-year career at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Since 2012 he has led the Exoplanet Exploration Program to advance the science, technology, and public engagement of the *Habitable Worlds Observatory*, NASA's next great flagship mission. Gary earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees in Aerospace Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is passionate about the search for life in the universe and is a skilled and entertaining observer of the night sky. He delights in sharing the wonders of the universe with the citizens of our own beautiful Planet Earth.

### **Choosing the Future: How Kepner-Tregoe Technology is Accelerating NASA's Search for Life in the Universe**

- Humanity may be on the cusp of learning that we are not alone in the universe
- Enabled by recent discoveries and technology advancements, NASA is designing and launching missions to search for life on other planets,
- Application of Kepner-Tregoe technology for prioritization and decision-making is accelerating this amazing exploration and discovery

## Greg Wooldridge, Blue Angels



Greg is a veteran of 27 years in the U.S. Navy. The uniqueness of his career featured being selected to lead the Blue Angels precision aerobatic team on three occasions. As the only three time leader he grew with the opportunity to experience excellence while leading his team in an intense high consequence environment. His leadership, to be successful, required building of an extraordinary level of trust. Critical, correct thinking skills had to be always be at the forefront

His passion for flawless execution was demonstrated on a world tour leading the Blue Angels through eight counties with a first ever air show over Moscow. He was a principal in the award winning documentary "Blue Angels - Around the World at the Speed of Sound" and an executive producer of the recently released IMAX/ Amazon Prime movie "The Blue Angels".

**Greg shares his recipe for the top 1% performance with organizations across the globe.**

## Pierre Desjardins, Bombardier



Pierre Desjardins is a critical thinker with over 20 years of experience in driving efficiency and effectiveness in systems and processes for large-scale organizations. As a mentor in problem solving and operational excellence, he leads change initiatives to maximize growth and enhance performance. Currently serving as a Senior Operational Excellence Specialist at Bombardier, Pierre leverages his extensive experience in business process analysis and continuous improvement to enhance problem-solving capabilities within organizations.

Pierre's expertise includes basic and complex problem solving, decision making, Lean methodologies, and Six Sigma. He is a certified Kepner-Tregoe Program Leader, Coach, and Facilitator, bringing advanced skills in structured problem solving and decision-making frameworks to his work. His professional journey reflects a commitment to operational excellence and a deep understanding of the methodologies that drive sustainable improvements.

Known for his positive contributions to work environments, Pierre fosters collaborative and effective teams. His colleagues frequently commend him for his keen business acumen, technical prowess, and interpersonal skills. Outside of his professional endeavors, Pierre is an avid ice hockey enthusiast, enjoying his role as a goaltender and demonstrating his dedication and teamwork both on and off the ice.