

Humanity & Knowledge: Forging into the Final Frontier Responsibly Daniel J. Evans, *American Public University System*

Abstract:

Space is a boundless frontier replete with endless opportunities for resource utilization, mining employment, and scientific exploration. Although there have been incredible advancements in the short period in which space travel has been available and possible for different nations and private organizations, the inclusion of different entities in space exploration indicates a new set of questions that will need solutions of their own. Discoveries are constantly being made throughout the scientific community that have either been formulated from new research or offered fresh perspectives on principles and theories that humanity had once thought to be virtually certain.

The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 contains aspects of legal cooperation for space exploration that include the use of outer space to be carried out for the benefits and interests of humanity, the free exploration of outer space, the discouragement of national appropriation of space objects and celestial bodies, the banishment of nuclear weapons in space, and national liability for wrongdoing parties. Although each of these aspects of space exploration are necessary for peaceful use of outer space, there is an overarching theme that must be explored in these ideas. This theme is one of the most crucial elements to the expansion and exploration of outer space: The knowledge that humanity can gain in the process.

Through garnering lessons and research, the knowledge gained from space exploration can not only influence the expansion of humanity into the cosmos, but also the culture and vitality of humanity itself. By focusing on the knowledge that is to be gained from a strong, worldwide space program, aspects such as survival, challenge, freedom, and the future will be influenced for the betterment of humanity.