

# 2024 NCS Hall of Fame honorees announced

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ORLANDO, FL, UNITED STATES, June 11, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The National Center for [Simulation](#) (NCS) has announced its 2024 inductees for the [Modeling](#) & Simulation (MS&T) Hall of Fame: Carolina Cruz-Neira, Ph.D., the late Navy Capt. Daniel Holsenbeck, Ph.D., and Daryl Holt.

These individuals will be inducted into the NCS Modeling & Simulation Hall of Fame at a ceremony in the Hall of Fame's prominent display at the Orange County Convention Center's (OCCC) South Concourse on Oct. 23.

Cruz-Neira is a professor at the University of Central Florida's (UCF) College of Engineering and Computer Science. Her NCS Hall of Fame inclusion

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*George Cheros, NCS President & CEO*

recognizes her pioneering work grounded in modeling and simulation, which has a strong emphasis on visual and interactive tools, as well as hardware and software technologies. Cruz-Neira's work has been instrumental in facilitating data analysis, decision-making, design reviews, and training and education.

She has earned global acclaim in the MS&T community for creating the Cave Automatic Virtual Environment virtual reality system, and her efforts have become standard tools recognized by professionals in [government](#), industry, and

academia. Cruz-Neira has also made significant contributions to the fields of virtual reality, interactive visualization, high-performance computing, and digital twins.



The National Center for Simulation (NCS) has announced its 2024 inductees for the Modeling & Simulation (MS&T) Hall of Fame: Carolina Cruz-Neira, Ph.D., the late Navy Capt. Daniel Holsenbeck, Ph.D., and Daryl Holt.

She has received praise from major companies as varied as Raytheon, Proctor & Gamble Co., and Ford Motors for increasing product safety, and improving design and production processes that have saved time and millions of dollars. Cruz-Neira's innovations have influenced training and research for NASA, the U.S. military, and U. S. National Laboratories. Her leadership in addressing large problems by forming interdisciplinary teams have become a key to innovation and considered standard practice in driving American competitiveness in the global economy.

Holsenback served in the Navy on active duty and in reserve status for over 30 years and retired as a captain. He joined UCF in 1985 and eventually became vice president of university relations and director of government relations before retiring in December 2019. During his tenure, Holsenback played a significant role in securing support for several facility-related projects that were critical in protecting and further developing Central Florida's MS&T community.

During his 34 years at UCF, he was a key leader who secured community support and state funding to address infrastructure threats to the military's MS&T presence in the Orlando area and establishing conditions for future growth. Holsenback also assembled groups throughout the region (with unrelated interests) to support initiatives such as perimeter security upgrades and the facilities that eventually became the Partnership Complex. These efforts solidified the collaborative spirit that is a defining trait of the "Team Orlando" ecosystem and has helped make Central Florida the MS&T epicenter.

Holt is vice president and group chief operating officer at Electronic Arts (EA) in Orlando. He has led the development of award-winning sports simulations for 20 years and has become a widely respected leader in Central Florida's technology industry. As an EA senior vice president, he is responsible for a popular collection of games that have influenced pop culture and gaming culture, such as the "Madden NFL" franchise, "EA Sports GPA Tour," the "EA Sports College Football" game series, as well as intellectual property in the development of high-definition, mobile and emerging platforms.

Adhering to his philosophy of "move forward together," Holt serves on the Orlando Economic Partnership's executive board of directors as well as the Florida High Tech Corridor Council, and he chairs the Innovate Orlando board. A variety of business publications have recognized his leadership multiple times over the years, and his contributions to the MS&T industry have helped establish Central Florida as a tech hub with unlimited potential. Holt's work has set him apart as a local and industry leader, which has allowed EA to cement its legacy in interactive entertainment and inspired the world to play.

"I really look forward to this time of year when we get to recognize our colleagues and pioneers in the MS&T industry who have contributed so much," said George Cheros, NCS president and CEO. "Their leadership and accomplishments in their different areas contribute to the growth of the modeling and simulation field and impact every industry sector. Our inductees' work has impacted products the public consumes, influenced the entertainment industry it enjoys, and ensured the national security that makes our way of life possible."

NCS, in partnership with Orange County government, including the Office of the Mayor of Orange County and the OCCC, established the NCS Modeling and Simulation Hall of Fame in 2014. NCS recognizes deserving members of the MS&T community in an annual ceremony. This year's inductees will bring the total to 42.

#### About NCS

The NCS is a nonprofit trade association that operates as an open consortium with government, academic and industry members. Its goals include facilitating MS&T innovation, supporting public policies that promote the development and growth of MS&T, developing/growing the MS&T workforce, and increasing the MS&T industrial base.

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