

1972 grad gets second NASA medal



Robert D. Cabana, director of NASA John F. Kennedy Space Center and NASA astronaut, left, and Kelvin M. Manning, associate director of NASA John F. Kennedy Space Center, right, present the Exceptional Achievement Medal to Tim Adams.

An alum has been awarded a second medal for his work with NASA.

Timothy C. "Tim" Adams, 1972 Bachelor of Arts in mathematics, received the Exceptional Achievement Medal from NASA. The award was for his work in mathematics and probabilistic simulation that described the uncertainty in the performance of an engineered system.

His work showed building modifications at NASA John F. Kennedy Space Center were not needed to protect personnel during the assembly and test of a launch vehicle and spacecraft. His analysis enabled savings of

approximately \$50 million by negating the need for structural modifications to the Vehicle Assembly Building, the largest single-story building in the world.

"I was surprised when I received the award," Adams said of the award given in summer 2014. "I know that many hurdles of approval must be jumped" before the award is given.

This is Adams's second medal. The first, the Exceptional Engineering Achievement Medal, was awarded in 2010 for work in the area of quantitative reliability engineering.

"The kind of education I received at Trine, a blend of technical and liberal arts, prepared me for the future," Adams said. "My good, basic education from Trine has always let me land on my feet. I could go in any career environment and figure it out."

Adams has been with NASA since 1987, spending his first 13 years with NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space in Houston. Adams also completed studies at the University of Oklahoma and the University of Houston.

Anyone wishing to contact Adams, who lives in Orlando, Fla., may do so via email at Tim.Adams@NASA.gov. ■