

STATE OF OHIO  
*Executive Department*

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

*Columbus*

I, Mike DeWine, Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby appoint Pankaj Karna, from Athens, Athens County, Ohio, as a Student Member of the Ohio University Board of Trustees for a term beginning August 2, 2024 and ending at the close of business May 13, 2026, replacing Mia Citino, whose term expired.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of the State of Ohio to be affixed, at Columbus, this 2nd day of August in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty Four.

*Mike DeWine*

Mike DeWine  
Governor

# Pankaj Karna

[pk065821@ohio.edu](mailto:pk065821@ohio.edu)

<https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/ambassadors/1284/>

## Highlights

- Teaching Classes and Labs
- Youth mentoring and outreach
- Technical reports and presentations
- Military Veteran, SSBI Clearance - DoD
- NASA program ambassador
- Leadership experience

## Education

**Ph.D. in Physics** (in progress, 3 years remaining)

Ohio University, Athens, OH

**Master of Science in Physics**

University of Washington

**Bachelor of Science, Engineering Physics**

University of Central Oklahoma

## Experience

**Teaching Assistant (Ohio University, Athens, OH Jan 2022 – current)**

- Teach undergraduate physics labs for various majors.
- Help students with experiments and problem solving.
- Grade assignments, exams and technical reports.
- Participate in weekly meetings, relay instruction and feedback between professors and students.

**Solar System Exploration Ambassador (Volunteer), NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory**

January 2016 – Current

- Conduct workshops, training, outreach events and presentations on NASA programs.
- Interact with students and collect feedback for improvement.
- Participate in teleconferences on NASA programs and research.
- Certified to Run After School Universe Program (Goddard Space Flight Center)

<https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/ambassadors/1284/>

**United States Army:**

**Operations Room, Supply Chain and Digital Training Management System Specialist**

- Responsible for management of records (classified and unclassified) and assisting leadership in planning.
- Supervised supply chain process using SAP based software.
- Identified opportunities for processes improvement, recommended training and assessments.

**Research Assistant**

Department of Engineering Physics, University of Central Oklahoma

- Physics and engineering research, data acquisition, analysis and visualization.
- Taught classes, graded papers, mentored and evaluated student projects.
- Project conceptualization, grant proposals, design, development and documentation.
- Multi-disciplinary collaboration, reports, executive summaries and presentations.

**Data Analyst, Bratrud Middleton, Tacoma, WA**

- Analyzed large scale datasets to find correlations, patterns and trends.
- Managed data analytics projects, reports, visualizations and dashboards using SQL, Power BI and Excel
- Query SQL databases, design views, stored procedures and functions.
- Identified deficiencies and conducted staff training at multiple levels.

## Awards / Recognitions (selected attached at end)

### Military

- National Defense Service Medal
- Army Achievement Medal (x 2)
- Army Service Ribbon
- Distinguished Honor Graduate (AIT)
- Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

### Civilian

- Award Letter from Physics Nobel Laureate, Sir Cohen Claude, Collège de France
- Outstanding Engineering and Physics Project of the Year 2013, University of Central Oklahoma (UCO)
- Engineering & Physics Departmental Service Award, UCO
- International Leadership Scholarship, UCO, 2010, 2011, 2012
- Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activities Grant
- UCO College of Math and Science Research and Teaching Assistantship

Security Clearance: SSBI valid till January 2025

### **Organizational Memberships**

- Veteran students of America (SVA)
- American Institute of Physics
- Ohio University Physics and Astronomy Grads
- The Planetary Society
- UCO Physics club (former project team president)
- Pegasus Astronomical Society

### Selected Research/Projects

- Designing Alternative Launch Systems for Affordable Access to Suborbital Space  
MS Physics capstone
- Integrated Surface Plasmon Based Optical Sensors Using Liquid Crystals  
research assistant.
- Near Space Research, Surveillance and Payload Launch System  
Team Lead, recognized as Engineering Physics Project of the Year, UCO)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87cAixpJHnY>
- Observation and Analysis of Elemental Abundance Gradients in Milky Way Galaxy
- Supply chain automation project (Independently Designed, US Army)
- Mechanical Behavior of Fluids in Hydraulic Systems
  - (Funded by Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activities (RCSA) Grant, UCO)

Selected Awards starting on Next page.

## Recognition from the President of United States

### CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

FOR SERVICE IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
SPECIALIST PANKAJ KARNA  
US ARMY

*I extend to you my personal thanks and the sincere appreciation of a grateful nation for your contribution of honorable service to our country. You have helped maintain the security of the nation during a critical time in its history with a devotion to duty and a spirit of sacrifice in keeping with the proud traditions of military service.*

*Your commitment and dedication have been an inspiration for those who will follow in your footsteps, and for all Americans who join me today in saluting you for a job extremely "well done."*

*My best wishes to you for happiness and success in the future.*

  
Commander in Chief



### Evaluation from Students

Pankaj Karna , Lab instructor evaluations

MARK LUCAS, Introduction to Physics PHYS2002112\_2235\_Regular

- <sup>4,2)</sup> **Lab Instructor:** What were the lab instructor's strengths? In what areas could the lab instructor improve? In answering you could address issues such as the organization of labs, the instructor's readiness to answer questions, entertain suggestions from students, and encourage the group.
- He was very present and helped us without getting frustrated. Very patient, knew what he was talking about.
  - His strengths were putting us in a position to succeed and not just try to grade harshly he really wanted us to learn the material rather than focus on the grades.
  - Overall good TA. Helped a lot when equipment was not producing expected outcome. Graded fairly and was available to answer questions.
  - The lab instructor did an excellent job of demonstrating the lab prior to us starting and answered our questions thoroughly and in a very timely manner.
  - The lab instructor was very helpful and knowledgeable about the content. He could clearly explain the content and was always nice and approachable. He wanted to help us succeed, which is why he is the best TA I have had.

## International Leadership Scholarship



UNIVERSITY OF  
CENTRAL  
OKLAHOMA

### International Leadership Scholarship

This Certificate Is Awarded To

**Pankaj Karna**

*In recognition of your outstanding leadership you have been awarded a scholarship for the spring semester of two thousand and nine on the twelfth day of December, two thousand and eight.*

Dr. Dennis Duham, Ph.D.  
Director, Office of International Student Services



Jalal Daneshfar   
Immigration/International Student Activities

## Engineering Physics Service Award

*Engineering Physics  
Service Award  
2009*

*Pankaj Karna*

*Presented by the*

*Department of Engineering & Physics  
College of Mathematics and Science  
University of Central Oklahoma*



Dr. John Barthel, Dean  
College of Mathematics and Science

Dr. Nisha Jaisankar, Chair  
Department of Engineering & Physics

## Army Achievement Medal



### DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY HAS AWARDED

### THE ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

TO

SPECIALIST PANKAJ KARNA

FOR AN UNTIRING WORK ETHIC THAT DIRECTLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE OVERALL SUCCESS OF THE MUSTANG BATTALION WHILE AT THE NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER ROTATION J6-03. SPECIALIST KARNA'S PERFORMANCE REFLECTS HIS COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE. HIS ACTIONS REFLECT DISTINCT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, 2D BRIGADE SUPPORT BATTALION, 1D BRIGADE (STRYKER BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM), 2D INFANTRY DIVISION, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY. MUSTANGS!

FROM 11 JANUARY 2016 TO 06 FEBRUARY 2016

THIS 26TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2016



PERMANENT ORDERS #057-93  
2D BSB, 2-2 ID (SBCT)  
JBLM, WA 98433

STEVEN E. PUTTHOFF  
LTC, LG  
Commanding

## NASA page

[solarsystem.nasa.gov/ambassadors/1284/](https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/ambassadors/1284/)

NASA

SOLAR SYSTEM EXPLORATION  
Our Galactic Neighborhood

SOLAR SYSTEM AMBASSADORS

## Pankaj Karna



Athens, Ohio

Member since 2016

[CONTACT PANKAJ](#)

Pankaj Karna is a physics and astronomy researcher, educator and U.S. military veteran. He graduated with physics major from University of Washington. His areas of research include evolution of universe and near-earth objects with projects mostly focused on sub-orbital space launch systems. An ardent believer in socio-economic empowerment through science and education, he has spent time teaching and mentoring students of all levels. His passion for space exploration is driven by the belief that it inspires us to think big and aim higher.

Award letter from Physics Nobel laureate Sir Claude Cohen- Tannoudji  
(In French)



COLLÈGE  
DE FRANCE  
—1530—

Chaire de Physique Atomique  
et Moléculaire

*Laboratoire Kastler Brossel  
Département de Physique  
de l'Ecole Normale Supérieure*

Claude Cohen-Tannoudji  
Professeur

Mr. Pankaj Kam  
Nepal

Chère Pankaj,

Toutes mes félicitations pour ta participation au Passeport des Talents de la Physique et pour ton succès. Tu as obtenu le titre de "Jeune Ambassadeur de l'Année Internationale de la Physique 2005". Ce que tu as réalisé est tout à fait remarquable.

J'espère que tu as ressenti, comme moi tout au long de ma carrière, la fascination, la stimulation et le plaisir qui attirent vers la Physique. La Physique nous aide à comprendre un ensemble particulièrement vaste de phénomènes mystérieux et intéressants qui se manifestent du monde incroyablement petit à l'échelle sub-atomique à l'univers tout entier. Les connaissances que la Physique nous a fait ainsi acquérir nous permettent de mieux comprendre la place que le genre humain occupe dans l'univers, et ont débouché sur des technologies qui ont amélioré notre vie quotidienne. Tous les jours et partout dans le monde, des hommes et des femmes utilisent ce que la Physique nous a appris pour aider leurs proches et leur communauté à améliorer leur qualité de vie.

Approfondis tes centres d'intérêt et développe tes talents. De nombreuses questions fondamentales demeurent ouvertes en physique et attendent une solution. Pour y répondre, nous avons besoin des talents et de la créativité de chercheurs qui sont les étudiants d'aujourd'hui. J'espère que tu sauras relever le défi. La carrière de physicien offre des grandes satisfactions et tu peux apporter des contributions importantes pour une meilleure compréhension du monde. Je t'adresse mes vœux les plus chaleureux de succès pour la suite de tes études et pour ta future carrière.

Très cordialement.

Claude Cohen-Tannoudji  
Prix Nobel de Physique, 1997



"Pour le développement de méthodes pour refroidir et piéger des atomes au moyen de faisceaux laser"

## GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

**Appointment Date:** 8/2/2024

**Name of Appointee:** Pankaj Karna

**Address:** 15 S. Shafer St  
Athens, OH 45701  
#1704  
Athens County  
(H): 4055132475  
(W):  
(M): 4055132475  
(E): pk065821@ohio.edu

**Name of Commission:** Ohio University Board of Trustees  
Shelly Bean  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees  
D: (740) 593-9964  
Eric Burchard  
Executive Director, Government Relations  
C: (614) 477-5343  
110 Cutler Hall, Ohio University  
Athens, OH 45701-2979  
(P): (740) 590-3204  
(E): beans1@ohio.edu; burchard@ohio.edu

**Term Begins:** 5/14/2024  
**Term Ends:** 5/13/2026  
**Party Affiliation:** Independent  
**Senate Confirmation:** Appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the Senate  
**Financial Disclosure:** Confidential disclosure required  
**Vice:** Mia Citino