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Ambassador Pinzón Joins Colombian-born NASA Scientist for Historic First U.S. Asteroid Mission Launch

Adriana Ocampo on NASA's Asteroid Sample Return Team

Washington, DC — Colombian Ambassador to the United States Juan Carlos Pinzón will join fellow Colombian and NASA scientist, Adriana Ocampo, today at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida, for the historic launch of the U.S. space organization's first mission to return a sample of an asteroid to Earth.

“It is an honor today to see the launch of the asteroid return mission, and I thank Adriana and the NASA team for providing me with this out-of-this-world opportunity,” said Ambassador Pinzón.

Originally from Barranquilla, Colombia, Ocampo is a Science Program Manager at NASA and is part of the team launching the Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer (OSIRIS-REx) spacecraft. The spacecraft will travel to the near-Earth asteroid Bennu and bring a sample back to Earth for intensive study.

Ocampo has enjoyed a long and distinguished career in planetary science. In addition to the asteroid sample return mission, she has worked on NASA's Juno mission to Jupiter and the New Horizons mission to Pluto. Ocampo has received numerous awards throughout her career, including being named one of the 50 Most Important Women in Science by *Discover Magazine* in 2002.

Learn more about the OSIRIS-REx spacecraft [here](#).

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