



The Engineers' Council

# ANNUAL HONORS & AWARDS BANQUET

February 28, 2026

# T R A N S F O R M Y O U R F U T U R E

Celebrate Engineers Week 2026

*"From the devices in our pockets to the bridges  
we drive across, engineering touches every part  
of our lives."*



# Evening Program

## Welcome and Future Technology Leaders Awards - 6:00 pm

**Connor Reyes**  
Lockheed Martin  
**Dinner**

### Award Ceremony - 7:00 pm

Welcome Message by The Engineers' Council  
President

**Stephen K. Guine**  
KELCEY & CO

### Award Presenters

**Thomas R. Tarn**  
L3Harris Technologies

**Steven Snell**  
Senior Director, Space Propulsion and Power  
Systems L3Harris Technologies

**Dr. Marek Z. Barylak**  
Jet Propulsion Laboratory

**Sonja Domazet**  
Northrop Grumman Corporation

**Rho Cauley Bruner**  
VP, Autonomous ISR & Targeting Business Unit  
Northrop Grumman Corporation

**Connor Reyes**  
Lockheed Martin

**Kenneth G. Davis**  
Amaero

**Connor Davainis**  
Northrop Grumman Corporation

**Noelle Saccoccio**  
The Boeing Company

**Eli G. Stiny**  
Stiny Enterprises

**Dr. Jackie Zev**  
The Engineers' Council

**Stephen K. Guine**  
KELCEY & CO

**Scott Munro**  
(Ret.) Program Director  
Lockheed Martin Skunk Works®

**Connor Reyes**  
Lockheed Martin

**Michel Yao**  
AeroVironment, Inc.

**Robin Vermeland**  
Lockheed Martin

**Ron "Epic" Fehlen**  
Deputy to Skunkworks® Vice President &  
General Manager

**Eli G. Stiny**  
Stiny Enterprises

**Chyrl Yeatts**  
L3Harris Technologies

**Stephen K. Guine**  
KELCEY & CO





# The Engineers' Council Board of Directors



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Vice President

**Jackie Zev, PhD**  
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**Marek Z. Barylak, PhD**  
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**Rudy Montalvo**  
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**Chris Vigil, P.E., LEED AP**

**Michael Yao**

**Chyrl Yeatts**

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## Student Representatives

**Paige Dailey**

**Paul Dylan**

**Pierce Trinephi**

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# The Engineers' Council - Past Presidents

1970 William B. Johnson	2003 Robert B. Tarn
1980 Clifford B. Shiepe, PE	2004 Robert B. Tarn
1981 Clifford B. Shiepe, PE	2005 Robert B. Tarn
1982 Lloyd W. Higginbotham, FIAE	2006 Paul F. Landry
1983 William F. Hassel, PE, FIAE	2007 Paul F. Landry
1984 Clifford Terry	2008 Patrick Berbon
1985 Roland V. Roggero	2009 Dr. Charles H. Volk
1986 James P. Ritchey	2010 Dr. Charles H. Volk
1987 James P. Ritchey	2011 Kenneth G. Davis
1988 Harlan L. Russ	2012 Kenneth G. Davis
1989 Dr. A. F. Ratcliffe	2013 Sonja Domazet
1990 Dr. A. F. Ratcliffe	2014 Sonja Domazet
1991 Robert Budica	2015 Sonja Domazet
1992 Robert Budica	2016 Sonja Domazet
1993 Lloyd W. Higginbotham, FIAE	2017 Sonja Domazet
1994 Lloyd W. Higginbotham, FIAE	2018 Sonja Domazet
1995 Lloyd W. Higginbotham, FIAE	2019 Sonja Domazet
1996 Lloyd W. Higginbotham, FIAE	2020 Sonja Domazet
1997 Lloyd W. Higginbotham, FIAE	2021 Sonja Domazet
1998 Lloyd W. Higginbotham, FIAE	2022 Sonja Domazet
1999 Lloyd W. Higginbotham, FIAE	2023 Stephen K. Guine
2000 Lloyd W. Higginbotham, FIAE	2024 Stephen K. Guine
2001 Lloyd W. Higginbotham, FIAE	2025 Stephen K. Guine
2002 Lloyd W. Higginbotham, FIAE	





# History of The Engineers' Council Awards

The Engineers' Council was founded in 1955 as the "San Fernando Valley Engineers' Council" through the efforts of the California Society of Professional Engineers, the American Institute of Plant Engineers, the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. A few years before, Congress established National Engineers Week to recognize the valuable contributions of engineers to the country. In the years after its founding, the Engineers' Council's annual joint meeting of its member societies grew into the largest annual honors and awards banquet celebrating National Engineers Week. This banquet raises funds for high school and college scholarships along with activities to attract young people to the engineering field. The banquet also honors professionals whose accomplishments warrant recognition by their peers.

In 1959, Roy E. Marquardt, one of the most respected engineers in the San Fernando Valley, was named the first Engineer of the Year. His accomplishments and technical innovations became a benchmark to measure all future candidates for this most prestigious honor. In 1969, Ed Reineke was selected as the first Honorary Engineer of the Year. Since then, a long list of nationally renowned individuals has proudly received this award. The Peter Recchia Omni Award was created in 1973. This perpetual trophy is named after its designer, Mr. Peter Recchia, who was a great supporter of the engineering community. The Recchia trophy is presented annually to the Engineer of the Year recipient.

In 1987, in collaboration with Brigadier General Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager, the Council established the Brigadier General Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager International Aeronautical Achievements Award which is awarded to the individual who, with the general's concurrence, and posthumously with Mrs. Yeager's concurrence, has attained historically outstanding achievement in the field of aeronautical flight test and engineering.

In February 1992, the Advanced Development Programs of Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company granted the Council the privilege of using both service marks "Skunk Works" and the stylized "Skunk" in the Clarence L. "Kelly" Johnson Skunk Works Award. In 2006 and 2007, the Council developed the Jack Northrop Spirit of Aviation Award in cooperation with Northrop Grumman Corporation, and the Robert H. Goddard Space Propulsion Pioneer Award in cooperation with Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne, which is now part of L3Harris Technologies.

In 2010, the Council partnered with Florida sections of AIAA and ASME, and the Business Development Board of Palm Beach, to jointly sponsor and launch a National E-Week honors and awards banquet in West Palm Beach Florida. The Florida banquet has become a well-established and recognized awards event for the east coast.

In 2016, the Boeing Engineering Leadership Award was developed, in collaboration with the Boeing Company. In the same year, the Council also added the Future Technology Leader award to recognize early career professionals who have achieved significant accomplishments in a particular area of engineering activity within the first five years of their career.

In 2019, the Council, in collaboration with the American Society for Quality (ASQ), established the Quality Engineer of the Year award, which recognizes individuals who have achieved significant career accomplishments in the field of quality engineering. In 2019, the Council also updated the artwork for its Distinguished Awards. The same year, the Council partnered with professional societies of the Huntsville, Alabama area to jointly host an honors and awards banquet.

Through the years, the Engineers' Council has presented thousands of awards recognizing the excellence demonstrated by individuals in the fields of engineering, education, special fields of work, and public service. At the same time, scholarships and other charitable activities have continually inspired and attracted those new engineers who will go on to continue and exceed the work of those engineers who have come before them.





# Future Technology Leader Award

**Thaddeus S. Berger**

*Northrop Grumman Corporation  
Redondo Beach, California*



For distinguished contributions to Survivability initiatives at Northrop Grumman and recently being awarded a patent.

**Dr. Amin Ghadami**

*University of Southern California  
Los Angeles, California*



For exceptional contributions bridging applied mechanics with evolving engineering needs, groundbreaking research advancing dynamic analysis of engineering structures, and distinguished service to the scientific community.

**Charla Keiser**

*Northrop Grumman Corporation  
San Diego, California*



In recognition of exceptional technical leadership in restructuring the NATO AGS Declaration of Configuration (DoC) required to define and maintain the NATO AGS configuration.

**Kodi E. Kirtland**

*Lockheed Martin  
Palmdale, California*



In recognition of extraordinary depth and broad expertise as a configuration and lofting expert, leading technical interchange meetings and coordinating critical cross-functional efforts on a recent ADP effort.

**Patrick Kolar**

*Lockheed Martin  
Palmdale, California*



For outstanding contributions in the advancement of hypersonic inlet systems, technical leadership, and wind tunnel testing.

**Stephen Kubicki**

*L3Harris Technologies  
Canoga Park, California*



In recognition of technical excellence in advanced propulsion, program execution, and propelling innovation at Aerojet Rocketdyne.





# Future Technology Leader Award

**Brenda Meiling Ly**

*Northrop Grumman Corporation  
Woodland Hills, California*



For innovative contributions in Model-Based Systems Engineering, exemplifying outstanding technical acumen, visionary leadership, and dedication to advancing defense technology.

**Lance Mayhue**

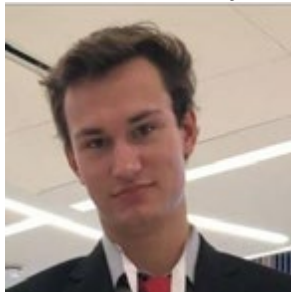
*L3Harris Technologies  
Canoga Park, California*



In recognition of exceptional contributions to the design and fabrication of the LEAP MCC.

**Donovan Mueller**

*Northrop Grumman Corporation  
Woodland Hills, California*



For distinguished contributions in program execution, exemplary technical expertise, and dedicated mentorship in cockpit systems, achieving superior operational performance, timely delivery, and enhanced customer capability while upholding rigorous government standards.

**Dr. Rasoul Narimani**

*California State University, Northridge (CSUN)  
Northridge, California*



For leadership in advancing cyber-physical power systems through federally funded research, innovative security methodologies, and impactful engineering education, strengthening the resilience and intelligence of next-generation energy infrastructure.

**Reed Osbrink**

*Northrop Grumman Corporation  
Woodland Hills, California*



In recognition of outstanding technical and leadership contributions to the integration and test phases of the LN-100 Inertial Navigation System product lines.





# Future Technology Leader Award

**Leah C. Richelsoph**  
*Lockheed Martin  
Palmdale, California*



For outstanding contributions to vehicle systems modeling and application, and for a relentless commitment to program execution in support of an urgent national need.

**Dr. Tohid Sardarmehni**  
*California State University, Northridge (CSUN)  
Northridge, California*



For significant contributions to undergraduate research in reinforcement learning, intelligent control, and autonomous robotics, leading to multiple manuscripts submitted to top IEEE journals and major international conferences.

**Lucca Trapani**  
*Northrop Grumman Corporation  
Woodland Hills, California*



In recognition of exceptional contributions to the design and development of reprogrammable Satellite Software Defined Receivers for Low Earth Orbit (LEO) applications.

**Jessica B. Turcios**  
*Northrop Grumman Corporation  
San Diego, California*



In recognition of exceptional contributions to design, analysis, testing, and mentoring on dynamic RF analysis in support of a next generation platform.

**Eric Wong**  
*L3Harris Technologies  
Canoga Park, California*



In recognition of outstanding performance, superior dedication, technical knowledge and leadership in the advancement of human space flight.





Photo Credit: NASA

# TO THE MOON AND BEYOND

Congratulations to all 2026  
National Engineers Week Honorees

L3Harris has contributed more than 100 critical elements to the Artemis II mission. Tonight's Award Recipients embody the innovative spirit that will not only return us to the Moon but achieve the unimaginable.



Scan to learn more.  
[L3Harris.com](https://www.L3Harris.com)



**L3HARRIS**<sup>®</sup>  
FAST. FORWARD.



# Past Recipients of The Robert H. Goddard Award

**2007 Byron K. Wood**

**2008 Maynard “Joe” Stangeland**

**2009 Paul F. Seitz**

**2011 John B. Plowden**

**2012 James Maser**

**2014 Dr. Munir M. Sindir**

**2016 Steven A. Bouley, Jeffrey Kincaid**

**2017 Dr. Marvin F. Young**

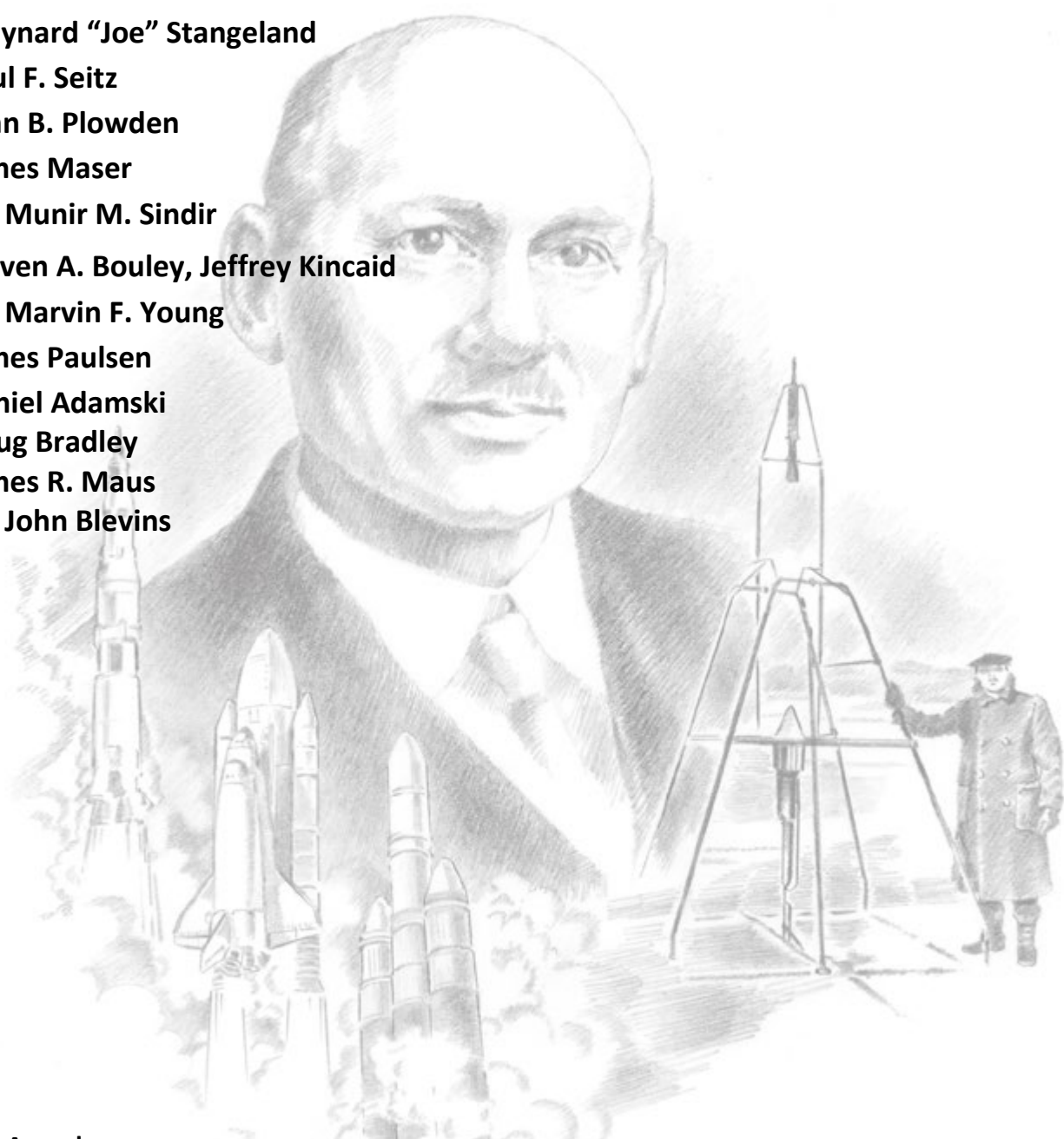
**2018 James Paulsen**

**2020 Daniel Adamski**

**2022 Doug Bradley**

**2023 James R. Maus**

**2024 Dr. John Blevins**



## **About the Award**

First conferred in 2007, in conjunction with Council partner Aerojet Rocketdyne, the Robert H. Goddard Space Propulsion Pioneer Award was created to recognize the achievements and contributions of physicist Robert Goddard, whose visionary ideas and experiments were critical to propelling humanity to the stars. This award recognizes individuals who throughout their careers have contributed innovative ideas and revolutionary engineering achievements to the field of space propulsion. The contributions of these individuals propel us faster and farther into the possibilities of space than previously imaginable. Candidates for this award are nominated directly by leadership of Aerojet Rocketdyne.





# Robert H. Goddard – Space Propulsion Pioneer Award



## George Prueger

**General Manager, Defense &  
Commercial Space Launch Systems**

**L3Harris Technologies  
West Palm Beach, Florida**

**In recognition of over 35 years of leadership in aerospace propulsion engineering and program management, including enhancement of the RL10 engine design and production and the advancement of turbomachinery design.**

Mr. Prueger has more than 35 years of engineering and program management experience and has been actively involved in the aerospace industry since 1988. As General Manager of the West Palm Beach facility, he oversees approximately 500 employees who design, manufacture and test rocket engines and air-breathing propulsion systems. Previously, he served as Director of RL10 Programs overseeing the RL10 product line, including all production and development efforts. Mr. Prueger previously served as Senior Director and Chief Engineer for space-related activities at Aerojet Rocketdyne. In that position, he worked to ensure technical development plans and technical baselines met rigorous standards, and that engineering resources were aligned with program demand to meet overall business objectives. Mr. Prueger holds a patent developed in 2002 for inducer design that enable lower weight turbomachinery through allowing higher speed operation. This design methodology continues to be used today. Early in his career, Mr. Prueger was the lead hydrodynamic design engineer of the RS-68 turbomachinery. The RS-68/RS-68A engine was the most powerful liquid hydrogen engine ever built and had a flawless record of 45 launches on Delta IV and Delta IV Heavy – which uses three RS-68A engines for its impressive performance. Mr. Prueger led the Space Shuttle Main Engine (SSME) High Pressure Oxidizer Turbopump (HPOTP) knife edge seal cracking investigation, identifying root cause and implementing corrective actions supporting the return to flight of STS-114 and crew safety. More recently, Mr. Prueger is responsible for the ramp up of the RL10 engine from 1 engine per month to 1 engine per week. This includes the development and qualification of the latest RL10 engine configuration which leverages additive manufacturing of the combustion chamber to reduce production lead time and reduce cost enabling increasing payload and reducing launch cost for our rocket vehicle customers. This partnership with the United Launch Alliance customer in 2024 with the ULA Partner Supplier of the Year award. In addition, given the multi-decade life of these engines, Mr. Prueger has also continuously mentored, hired and developed the next generation of talent to continue the legacy of his business.

**Presented By: Steven Snell**

Senior Director, Space Propulsion and Power Systems

L3Harris Technologies

Canoga Park, California





# Outstanding Engineering Achievement Merit Award

**Dr. Rais Ahmad**

*California State University, Northridge (CSUN)  
Northridge, California*



For outstanding service as a faculty mentor and advisor for the ASCE student chapter and dedication to the Civil Engineering and Construction Management Programs.

**Joseph Caravella**

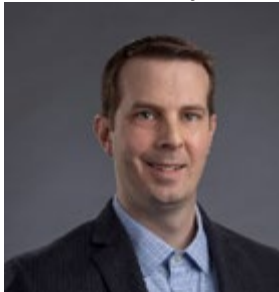
*L3Harris Technologies  
Canoga Park, California*



For leading the design for the extension of RS-25 nozzle restart drainlines, ensuring safe flight and enabling design modifications that support the SLS program schedule.

**Michael W. Harbeck**

*Lockheed Martin  
Palmdale, California*



For exceptional technical leadership and for development and implementation of a unique method that allows rapid iteration through the conceptual design process with minimal CFD model re-work.

**Stephen J. Leifer**

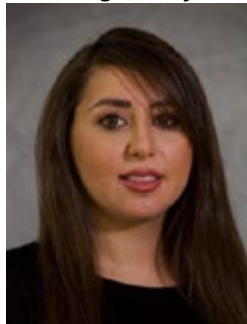
*Northrop Grumman Corporation  
El Segundo, California*



In recognition of exceptional contributions in leading cross-domain mission systems analysis for the DARPA's JANUS program, unlocking a year long bottleneck to deliver a new capability for the US.

**Dr. Maya Pishvar**

*California State University, Northridge (CSUN)  
Northridge, California*



For contributions to undergraduate mechanical engineering research and innovative work on active composite laminates with embedded shape memory alloy wires, advancing smart materials development, and for dedication as a faculty mentor.

**Kevin Anthony Smith**

*Northrop Grumman Corporation  
Redondo Beach, California*



For outstanding achievement in the successful architecture and readiness of the "K2" supercomputer, demonstrating expertise and leadership, which resulted in advances in Survivability research and Computational Electro-Magnetics capabilities.





# Distinguished Engineering and Engineering Educator Achievement Awards



**Robert Blomquist, Jr**  
*L3Harris Technologies  
Canoga Park, California*

For exemplary leadership and technical excellence in advancing the development and testing of advanced propulsion systems.



**Dr. Kyle Dewey**  
*California State  
University, Northridge  
(CSUN)  
Northridge, California*

For distinguished contributions to the education of Computer Science students in the sub-disciplines of language and compiler design, and for engaging undergraduate students as researchers and co-authors.



**Jeffrey Doran**  
*Lockheed Martin  
Palmdale, California*

In recognition of significant contributions in the field of Vehicle Management Systems design and architecture, which has enabled superior products for the Nation's Warfighters.



**Diane W. Osmer**  
*L3Harris Technologies  
Canoga Park, California*

For leadership, innovation, and steadfast dedication to engineering excellence in software development for Defense & Space Propulsion & Electrical Power Generation products.



**Dr. Benjamin Stanford Williams**  
*University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)  
Los Angeles, California*

In recognition of the development of novel lasers for the generation of terahertz radiation, thus opening a new part of the electromagnetic spectrum for applications in astrophysics, atmospheric/environmental sensing, nondestructive evaluation, and spectroscopy.





# Distinguished Engineering Project Achievement Award

## ADP Configuration Development: Flight Sciences & Configuration Team

Lockheed Martin  
Palmdale, California



In recognition of accelerating the conceptual design phase of a clean sheet program, delivering results with unprecedented timelines that directly enabled achievement of future program milestones.

### Edward Rooney

*Project Leader*

Team Members:

<b>Sebastian Afshari</b>	<b>Morgan Ott</b>
<b>Kenneth Dorsett</b>	<b>Bradley Passe</b>
<b>Michael Harbeck</b>	<b>Marc Protacio</b>
<b>Anthony Hasler</b>	<b>Amy Ross</b>
<b>Kodi Kirtland</b>	<b>John Snow</b>
<b>Patrick Lane</b>	<b>Matthew Stoll</b>
<b>Timothy Moore</b>	<b>Josue Vazquez</b>

## RS-25 Nozzle Drainline Extension

L3Harris Technologies  
Canoga Park, California



For completing the design for the extension of RS-25 nozzle restart drainlines, ensuring safe flight, and enabling design modifications that support the SLS program schedule.

### Joseph Caravella

*Project Leader*

Team Members:

<b>JB Belmontes</b>	<b>Danny Marchant</b>
<b>McKale Berg</b>	<b>Vic Norman</b>
<b>Reece Dawson</b>	<b>Mark Slosser</b>
<b>Justin De Castro</b>	<b>Brian Sweet</b>
<b>Gabriel Gutierrez</b>	<b>Nami Taghavi</b>
<b>Estefanio Javier</b>	<b>Tri Tran</b>
<b>Francis Lee</b>	<b>Sang Widman</b>





# Distinguished Engineering Project Achievement Award

## Low Observables Team

Northrop Grumman Corporation  
Edwards Air Force Base, California



In recognition of the B-21 Low Observable Test Team’s unwavering dedication and technical expertise, whose efforts have been instrumental in delivering unmatched capabilities to our warfighters and nation.

### Dakota Cooper

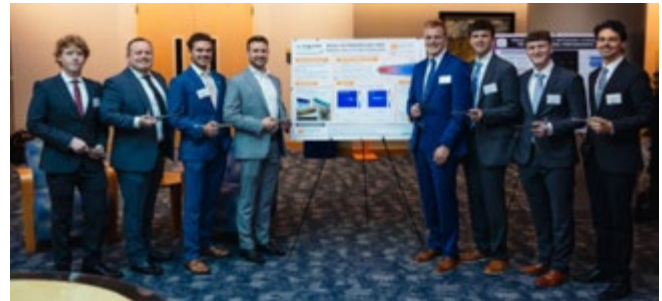
*Project Leader*

Team Members:

- Nikhil Bhatnagar
- Chloe Cortes
- Jacob Goswick
- Jerry Kiener
- Ryan Lewis
- Esha Tayade

## Novel 3-D Printed Heat Pipe Thermal Protection System

Lockheed Martin  
Marietta, Georgia



In recognition of exemplary performance on the “Novel 3-D Printed Heat Pipe Thermal Protection System” hypersonic engineering project that delivered a 42% reduction in leading-edge surface temperature.

### Dr. Walker B. McCord

*Project Leader*

Team Members:

- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Damiano Baccarella | Grayson Perez  |
| Luke Blandford     | Mason Roddy    |
| Aidan Condry       | Seungha Shin   |
| Nick Cunningham    | Camden Shuman  |
| Alison Hoe         | Aaron Snyder   |
| Bradley Jared      | George Solomon |
| Christian Pack     | Keith Stanfill |





# Past Recipients of the Jack Northrop Spirit of Innovation Award

**2006 Douglas E. Wood**  
**2007 Paul Marchisotto (posth.)**  
**2008 Charles Tomita**  
**2009 Douglas L. Fronius**  
**2010 Dr. John M. Papazian (posth.)**  
**2011 Clayton K. S. Kau**  
**2012 Daniel Rihn**  
**2013 Allen A. Arata**  
**2014 Louie Chavez**  
**2015 Stuart Linsky**  
**2016 Chris Hernandez**  
**2017 Stephen M. Sullivan**  
**2018 Aaron R. Munger**  
**2019 Matthew Tremmel**  
**2020 Barry Strattan**  
**2022 Michael Huebner**  
**2023 Wayne Hurwitz**  
**2024 Craig Woolston**  
**2025 Alvaro Bermudez**

## About the Award

First conferred in 2006, in conjunction with Council partner Northrop Grumman Corporation, the Jack Northrop Spirit of Innovation Award was created to recognize the vision, perseverance and revolutionary engineering prowess of Jack Northrop and to inspire those who follow in his footsteps. This award recognizes individuals whose careers have been distinguished by inventiveness, mentorship and leadership while contributing visionary advancements to aviation, aeronautics and astronautics. The accomplishments of these individuals have shaped and transformed the known limits of their respective fields of engineering. Candidates for this award are nominated directly by leadership of the Northrop Grumman Corporation.





# Jack Northrop Spirit of Innovation Award



## Robert Zmarzlak

**Director of Engineering  
Northrop Grumman Corporation  
Melbourne, Florida**

**In recognition of outstanding contributions to Engineering and for embodying the vision, perseverance, and engineering prowess reminiscent of Jack Northrop.**

Rob Zmarzlak's career epitomizes engineering excellence and strategic vision within the aerospace and defense industry. Since assuming the role of Acting Global Surveillance Division Chief Engineer in April 2025, he has championed rigorous systems engineering processes across the Triton (MQ 4), Global Hawk (RQ 4), and Tactical Autonomous Systems portfolios, guaranteeing seamless integration from capture through sustainment. His leadership was instrumental in delivering the NATO Allied Ground System (AGS) Autonomous Initial Operating Capability milestone, a testament to his ability to synchronize multinational requirements with cutting edge technology. Previously, as Chief Engineer for the Triton Enterprise, Rob guided a series of transformative milestones, including the 2015 Operations Assessment, Milestone C in 2016, and the inaugural Integrated Functional Capability (IFC) 3 flight in 2017. He also oversaw development of the IFC 4 Multi-INT variant, which achieved Initial Operating Capability in December 2023—significantly advancing U.S. Navy maritime intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities. Beyond unmanned systems, Rob's four-decade legacy spans space tracking and surveillance, launch operations, and program management for premier organizations such as NASA, the USAF, the Missile Defense Agency, and allied customers. He guided the Space Tracking & Surveillance System Demonstrators (STSS-D) Program from integration to on-orbit operations, managed high impact contracts for operations and anomaly support, and led cross functional teams on GeoLITE, Earth Observation, and Space Based Radar initiatives. His distinguished 24-year military service in both the Navy and Army, including critical HUMINT and counterintelligence roles for NATO peacekeeping and All Source Intelligence Production and SIGINT in direct support of U.S. Army and Navy military operations around the globe, adds unparalleled depth to his technical acumen. Recognized with the Aviation Week Program Excellence Award, Northrop Grumman Chairman's Award, multiple President's Awards, and The Engineers' Council Engineer of the Year, Rob's blend of engineering mastery, operational insight, and visionary leadership makes him a singularly deserving candidate for this honor.

**Presented by: Rho Cauley Bruner**  
VP, Autonomous ISR & Targeting Business Unit  
Northrop Grumman Aeronautics System Sector





# Outstanding Engineering Achievement Merit Award

**Katy Bass**

*L3Harris Technologies  
Canoga Park, California*



For exceptional technical leadership in solid rocket motor Avionics design and development, dedication to excellence, and commitment to mentorship.

**Todd Grothe**

*Northrop Grumman Corporation  
Palmdale, California*



In recognition of 40+ years of extraordinary technical achievement, enduring innovations such as the development of advanced survivability tools and algorithms, and lifelong dedication to advancing aircraft survivability.

**Dr. Rashida Hasan**

*California State University, Northridge (CSUN)  
Northridge, California*



For outstanding achievement in the area of machine learning and artificial intelligence.

**Erin Y. Hong**

*The Aerospace Corporation  
El Segundo, California*



For outstanding technical and leadership accomplishments in the electromechanical control field and for contributions to the engineering profession as a passionate advocate for women and minorities in STEM fields.

**Nick Johnson**

*L3Harris Technologies  
Redmond, Washington*



For technical excellence in the modernization of the AR40 Orion Main Engine's pressure regulator, pneumatic pack, and series valve assemblies.

**Prof. Aram Khachatourians**

*California State University, Northridge (CSUN)  
Northridge, California*



For outstanding contributions to student learning and mentoring, advising undergraduates in critical academic decisions, serving as ABET coordinator, and providing career guidance to support students' academic and professional development.





# Distinguished Engineering and Engineering Educator Achievement Awards



**Dale Bradley**  
*Northrop Grumman Corporation  
 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

For outstanding dedication and rapid response in delivering a critical solution within 24 hours, enabling new CONOPs and supporting B-2 Warfighter mission success.



**Dr. David M. Boyajian**  
*California State University, Northridge (CSUN)  
 Northridge, California*

In recognition of exceptional engineering education contributions, transformative teaching, inclusive mentorship, curriculum innovation, and community engagement that elevate student achievement, broaden opportunity, and inspire the next generation of ethical engineers.



**Dr. Ruoming Gong**  
*L3Harris Technologies  
 Canoga Park, California*

In recognition of dedicated commitment to excellence and outstanding contributions to Aerojet Rocketdyne's combustion devices which have significantly advanced Aerojet Rocketdyne's technological achievements.



**Dr. Michael Niestroy**  
*Lockheed Martin  
 Fort Worth, Texas*

In recognition of contributions to the advancement of Guidance, Navigation, and Control modeling and application and for his technical leadership on many programs critical to the nation's defense.

## STEM Educator Award



**Guillermo Gonzalez**  
*James A. Garfield High School  
 Los Angeles, California*

In recognition for 30 years of excellence in educating and mentoring students in East Los Angeles.



**Lucy Juarez**  
*Los Angeles Unified School District  
 Los Angeles, California*

In recognition of exceptional contributions to advanced mathematics, for making AP courses accessible to students in underrepresented communities, and for continuing to promote possibilities in STEM.





# Distinguished Engineering Project Achievement Award

## Palmdale Flight Test Team

Lockheed Martin  
Palmdale, California



For shattering all previous test execution records through innovation, teamwork, and determination and for rapidly advancing cutting-edge capabilities for our Nation’s warfighters.

### Brandon Faias

*Project Leader*

Team Members:

- |                          |                               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Thomas Baltau</b>     | <b>Maegan Lemon</b>           |
| <b>Tyler Ciufu</b>       | <b>Randy Payne</b>            |
| <b>Michael Ferreira</b>  | <b>Christopher Sadowski</b>   |
| <b>Christopher Gocha</b> | <b>Kirk Tylosky</b>           |
| <b>Marilyn Hendrix</b>   | <b>David View</b>             |
| <b>James Jackson</b>     | <b>Francisco Villegas</b>     |
| <b>Jacob Klein</b>       | <b>Francis “Fuzzy” Zeller</b> |

## RQ-4 G&C Mission Analysis Team

Northrop Grumman Corporation  
Emerado, North Dakota



In recognition of the RQ-4 G&C Mission Analysis team’s exemplary dedication to the warfighter, ensuring the USAF operators have the mission plans available to safely execute the mission requirements.

### Kyle Tholen

*Project Leader*

Team Members:

- Thomas Greenwald**
- Braulio Mora**
- Grant Ramage**
- Kolen Roberts**





# Distinguished Engineering Project Achievement Award

## Torpedo Stored Chemical Energy Propulsion System Development

L3Harris Technologies  
Huntsville, Alabama



In recognition of successfully developing, hot-fire testing, and delivering the first Stored Chemical Energy Propulsion System (SCEPS) for the Mk54 Mod 2 torpedo.

**Scott Lowe**  
*Project Leader*

Team Members:

<b>Patrick Arellano</b>	<b>Andrew Hughes</b>
<b>Marc Bouffard</b>	<b>Jose Melendez</b>
<b>Nana-Kwaku Danquah</b>	<b>Claudia Ramirez</b>
<b>Tom Ferguson</b>	<b>Scott Warren</b>
<b>Tye Fountain</b>	<b>Sam Yaggy</b>

## Switchblade 600 for Ukraine

AeroVironment, Inc.  
Simi Valley, California



For excellence and innovation on the Switchblade 600 program in deploying urgently needed capabilities to Ukraine.

**Win Banning**  
*Project Leader*

Team Members:

<b>Andy Blatchford</b>	<b>Ian Joyce</b>
<b>Jon Burton</b>	<b>Tadd Norris</b>
<b>Nico Celse</b>	<b>Andres Ortiz</b>
<b>Scott Davis</b>	<b>Greg Schuh</b>
<b>Laurent Heughebaert</b>	<b>Jon Stiner</b>
<b>Tyson Jensen</b>	





# Past Recipients of The Engineering Educator of the Year Award

1982 Dr. Alfonso F. Ratcliffe	2005 Dr. Robert G. Ryan
1983 Dr. Robert Y. Wong	2006 Dr. Mihri Ozkan
1984 Dr. Edmond S. Gillespie	2007 Dr. Diane Schwartz
1985 Dr. Thelma Estrin	2008 Dr. Behzad Bavarian
1986 Dr. Gregg W. Dixon	2009 Dr. Chi-Tsen Lin
1987 Dr. Michael A. Melkanoff, P.E.	2010 Dr. Hamid Johari
1988 Dr. Diane Schwartz	2011 Dr. Melvin A. Breuer
1989 Dr. Larry Lichten	2012 Dr. S. K. Ramesh
1991 Dr. B. J. Shell	2013 Dr. Vijay K. Dhir
1992 Dr. Mihran S. Agbabian	2014 Dr. Mau-Chung F. Chang
1993 Dr. Michael Hassul	2015 Dr. Alan N. Willson,
1994 Dr. John W. Adams	2016 Dr. William J. Kaiser
1995 Dr. Sembian R. Rengarajan	2017 Dr. Azad M Madni
1996 Dr. Roger Di Julio	2018 Dr. Cengiz S. Ozkan
1997 Dr. Martin S. Roden	2019 Dr. Kawai Tam
1998 Dr. Ramin Roosta	2020 Dr. Houssam A. Toutanji
2000 Dr. Helen A. Ryaciotaki-Boussalis	2022 Prof. Steven Stepanek
2001 Dr. Sharlene Katz	2023 Dr. Nazaret Dermendjian, P.E.
2002 Dr. Stewart Prince	2024 Dr. Bohdan W. Oppenheim
2003 Dr. Nagwa Bekir	2025 Dr. Jean-Michel Maarek
2004 Prof. Tarek A. Shraibati	

## About the Award

The Engineering Educator of the Year Award is given in recognition of significant achievements by a professor in the successful involvement of students in learning, research and in the application of science and mathematics to the solution of problems in engineering design or theory. Recognition of a top educator began in 1982, with the "Education Achievements Award". In 1985, the top educator award was renamed the "Distinguished Education Achievements Award", which became the "Distinguished Engineering Education Achievements Award" in 1987. At the National Engineers Week Banquet of 1991, the award became the "Engineering Educator of the Year Award". In honor of The Engineers' Council founding member, this award bestowed upon the top educator, was re-named the "John J. Guarrera Engineering Educator of the Year Award", in 2007.





# John J. Guarrera

## Engineering Educator of the Year Award



### **Steven Robinson, Ph.D.**

**Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace  
Engineering**

**University of California, Davis**

**Davis, California**

**In recognition of distinguished contributions  
to the Department of Mechanical and  
Aerospace Engineering at the University of  
California, Davis and for 36 years of  
distinguished service at NASA.**

Dr. Robinson is the Lab Director and the Principal Investigator of the Human/Robotics/Vehicle Integration & Performance Laboratory (HRVIP) Lab at UC Davis where his areas of interest include human spaceflight; spacecraft design, operations, and inspection; human/system integration for aerospace systems; augmentation of human capabilities in hazardous environments; robotics and UAV technology; fluid physics and modeling; aircraft aerodynamics; and safety engineering. Dr. Robinson leads the UC Davis Center for Space Exploration Research, instilling a vision for the center focused on enabling human exploration and utilization of space through research and development. Dr. Robinson is a world-class educator who is passionate about education and professional development for graduate students, providing his students with exposure to leaders in the field through his extensive contacts in NASA and other organizations, and enabling their work on interdisciplinary collaborative projects. Dr. Robinson's 36 years of distinguished service at NASA include four shuttle missions, three spacewalks, being backup flight engineer for the International Space Station Expedition 4, and extensive expertise in spacecraft systems, space robotics and scientific payload operations. Robinson was Chief of the Experimental Flow Physics Branch at NASA's Langley Research Center in Virginia, where he led a group of 35 engineers and scientists engaged in aerodynamics and fluid physics research (1990); was awarded the NASA/Space Club Low Memorial Engineering Fellowship (1993); and was assigned for 15 months to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) as a Visiting Engineer in the Man Vehicle Laboratory (MVL). Dr. Robinson has received the College of Engineering Teaching Award (2019), the UC Davis Graduate Advising and Mentoring Award (2020), the NASA Ames Honor Award for Scientists (1989), the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Outstanding Technical Paper Award for Applied Aerodynamics (1992), and the NASA/Space Club G. M. Low Memorial Engineering Fellowship (1993).

**Presented By: Noelle Saccoccio**  
Vice President, The Engineers' Council





# CELEBRATING OUR DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AND ALL THE 2026 HONOREES!



**DISTINGUISHED ENGINEERING EDUCATOR AWARDS**



**FUTURE TECHNOLOGY LEADER AWARDS**

**DISTINGUISHED ENGINEERING EDUCATOR AWARDS:**

DR. DAVID M. BOYAJIAN  
DR. KYLE DEWEY

**FUTURE TECHNOLOGY LEADER AWARDS:**

DR. RASOUL NARIMANI  
DR. TOHID SARDARMEHNI



**OUTSTANDING ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT MERIT AWARDS**

**OUTSTANDING ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT MERIT AWARDS:**

DR. RAIS AHMAD  
DR. QAIS AMARKHIL  
DR. MARJAN ASADINIA  
DR. RASHIDA HASAN  
DR. BRAD JACKSON  
PROF. ARAM KHACHATOURIANS  
DR. BINGBING LI  
DR. MELIH PAPILA  
DR. MAYA PISHVAR  
DR. MARYAM TABIBZADEH

[Photos from top l-r]



MATHCOUNTS provides engaging math programs to U.S. middle school students of all ability levels to build confidence and improve attitudes about math and problem solving.



*Top 3 School Teams:*



*Top 3 Individual Scorers:*

1<sup>st</sup> Alex H. (Viewpoint)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Christopher L. (Rancho Pico JHS)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Joseph K. (Walter Reed)

Coordinator: Eli G. Stiny

San Fernando Valley Chapter

Competition Date: February 07, 2026

Facility: California State University, Northridge (CSUN)

Walter Reed Middle School

**Over 190 students from 20 schools competed!**





# Outstanding Engineering Achievement Merit Award

**Melissa Beck**

*L3Harris Technologies  
Canoga Park, California*



For exceptional leadership in establishing the assembly procedure for the Next Generation Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generator, which will power future deep space exploration missions.

**Miguel Jimenez**

*Lockheed Martin  
Palmdale, California*



For Leading Program Engagement with TED-XH.

**Dr. Brad Jackson**

*California State University, Northridge (CSUN)  
Northridge, California*



For outstanding achievement and contributions in the areas of Antennas and RF/Microwave Engineering, dedication to student research mentorship, and exemplary teaching in Electrical Engineering at California State University, Northridge.

**Scott Strickland**

*L3Harris Technologies  
Stennis Space Center, Mississippi*



In recognition of exceptional contributions and leadership towards developing and implementing cyber security controls and principals to the RS-25 Vehicle Simulator (VSIM) and Test Control (TCON) systems.

**Benjamin Schneider**

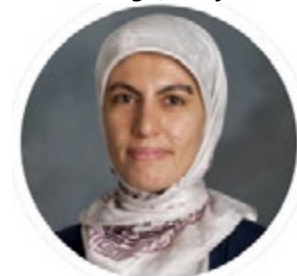
*Northrop Grumman Corporation  
Woodland Hills, California*



For outstanding achievement in applying Systems and Mission Engineering principles to advance capabilities of US Marine Corps H-1 helicopters to ensure safety and viability against the rapidly changing technologies backdrop.

**Dr. Maryam Tabibzadeh**

*California State University, Northridge (CSUN)  
Northridge, California*



For distinguished contributions in systemic and proactive risk assessment and reliability studies.





*Congratulations to our industry and academic colleagues for their achievements and honors!*

## Quality | Service | Commitment



[vca@vcaeng.com](mailto:vca@vcaeng.com)



Through **hands-on problem solving** and encounters **with women role models in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM)**, AAUW Tech Trek helps girls see their futures while having nonstop fun. This one-week summer camp is backed by AAUW's research and designed to make STEM fields exciting and accessible to **girls in middle school** – the age when girls' participation in these fields statistically drops. For many girls, the week long camp sparks their curiosity and places them on a path toward success.

AAUW of California member Marie Wolbach founded Tech Trek in 1998 with the help of an AAUW Community Action Grant. Today AAUW Tech Trek operates at 22 different sites around the nation. A 2013 survey of AAUW Tech Trek alumnae from California demonstrates the program's lasting effects on many levels, including interest and confidence in STEM fields, decision to pursue those fields, and future career plans.



[WWW.AAUW-CA.ORG/TECH-TREK](http://WWW.AAUW-CA.ORG/TECH-TREK)



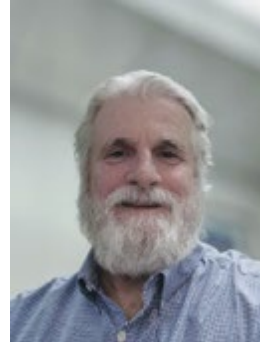


# Distinguished Engineering and Engineering Educator Achievement Awards



**Marc Bouffard**  
*L3Harris Technologies*  
*Canoga Park, California*

For technical leadership in Control and Integrated Health Management Electronics and Control System Architecture.



**William Carroll**  
*Northrop Grumman Corporation*  
*Woodland Hills, California*

For outstanding achievement and a lifetime of engineering excellence in the development of communications, command and control, battle management, and aircraft digital cockpit systems.



**Ryan Noguchi**  
*The Aerospace Corporation*  
*El Segundo, California*

For significant contributions to model-based systems engineering practice and advancing the emerging discipline of model architecting by adapting system architecting, system of systems engineering, and agile development principles.



**Dr. Veronica Jade Santos**  
*University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)*  
*Los Angeles, California*

For distinguished contributions to the haptics and robotics communities through innovation in tactile sensing and perception to advance human-robot systems, and for exceptional efforts to promote inclusive excellence.



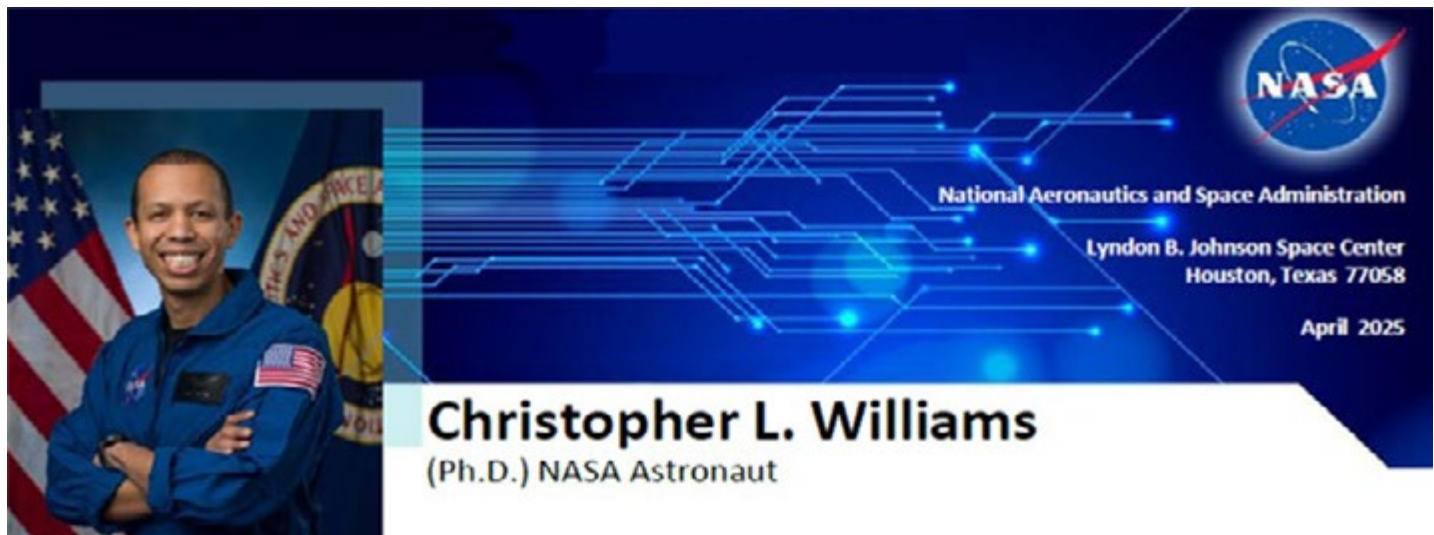
**Travis Vetter**  
*Skydweller Aero*  
*Nichols Hills, Oklahoma*

In recognition of exceptional contributions to extreme-endurance, solar-powered uncrewed aircraft and advanced flight-control systems that enable multi-day autonomous missions, transforming persistent airborne capability while advancing safe, zero-carbon, mission-ready aerospace operations.





# National Engineers Week Message from the International Space Station



Hello! I am Chris Williams on board the International Space Station, sending you a warm welcome during this 2026 National Engineers Week celebration with a great theme of “Transform Your Future!” And a big congratulations to all the award winners! You are truly making a difference in the world, investing lots of hours in some wonderful projects as well as bringing engineering to life for kids and educators. A special thank you to all the volunteers from engineering societies and professional organizations across our great nation stimulating interest in math and science among our youth. This is truly where we are transforming our future together.

NASA is an engineering organization and this International Space Station that we have lived and worked in continually for over 25 years is the most complex engineering project ever designed and built, and our lives depend on all of you engineers who make this home possible. The criticality of your work cannot be overstated – if you don’t do your job, people could get hurt. Your work can entail long hours and days. And, for the engineers working in America every day, we appreciate what you do to keep us safe on orbit, to keep our families secure at home, and to make technological progress for the benefit of all people on Earth.



NASA and our International Partners are working hard to get us back to the Moon, on to Mars, and beyond to explore this vast solar system. For the future engineers of America, we need your help to get there. Study hard, aim high and keep the dream alive!

Cheers to you from the International Space Station!





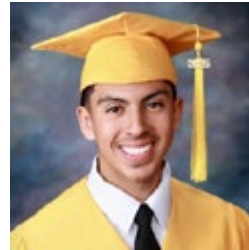
# 2025 The Engineers' Council Scholarships



**Aaron Nagy**  
Oak Park HS  
Aerospace/Mechanical  
Engineering  
Washington University



**Adeline Towle**  
Quartz Hill HS  
Civil Engineering  
UCLA



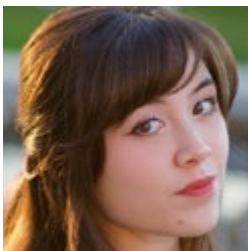
**Adrian Gutierrez**  
Palmdale HS  
Civil Engineering  
San Diego State University



**Azmain Harun**  
James Monroe HS  
Engineering  
Vanderbilt University



**Camilla Rodriguez**  
Taft HS  
Civil Engineering  
UC Berkeley



**Ciara Tadeo**  
Orange County School of the  
Arts  
Material Science & Engineering  
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo



**Corinne Jenni**  
South High School Torrance  
Aerospace Engineering  
University of Illinois Urbana  
Champagne



**Elizabeth Lee**  
Notre Dame Academy HS  
Mechanical Engineering  
UCLA



**Hyubin So**  
Palos Verdes Peninsula HS  
Mechanical Engineering  
Stanford University



**Isla Mundell**  
Redondo Union HS  
Biomedical Engineering  
Colorado University Boulder



**Lana Lee Thyen**  
Granada Hills HS  
Computer Science  
Stanford University



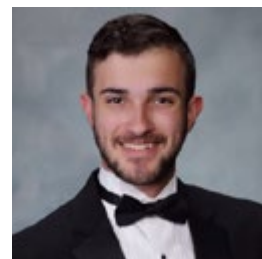
**Lily Yuguchi**  
West Torrance HS  
Electrical Engineering  
US Naval Academy



**Mia Mayeda**  
North High School Torrance  
Mechanical Engineering  
USC



**Qiao Zhang**  
Sierra Canyon HS  
Mathematics  
MIT



**Robert Simpson**  
Chaminade College Preparatory  
HS  
Aerospace Engineering  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute





# Past Recipients of The Engineer of the Year Award

1959 Roy E. Marquardt	1992 Sherman N. Mullin
1960 Richard Bradshaw	1993 Robert D. Paster
1961 Milford G. Childers	1994 Byron K. Wood
1962 Paul R. Vogt	1995 Jack S. Gordon
1963 George T. Harness	1996 Ernest Schaeffer
1964 Ralph Balent	1997 Paul B. Smith
1965 Clarence L. Johnson	1998 Anthony Joseph Spear
1966 Steven J. Domokos	1999 Robert Goetz
1967 James A. Broadston	2000 Dr. Michael E. Polites
1968 Dr. Arnold M. Levine	2001 Dr. Charles Volk
1969 Willis M. Hawkins	2002 Maynard L. "Joe" Stangeland
1970 Ralph A. Lamm	2003 E.R. "Ed" Glasgow
1971 Arthur A. Daush, Jr.	2004 Norman S. Sakamoto
1972 Dr. R.N. Ghose	2005 Thomas R. Gavin
1973 John J. Guarrera	2006 John B. Plowden
1974 Elliott H. Green	2007 Thomas W. Blakely
1975 Mathew C. Ek	2008 Jeffrey S. Kincaid
1976 Sam F. Iacobellis	2009 Frank Flores
1977 Lon L. Sanders	2010 Daniel A. Tazartes
1978 Norman J. Ryker	2011 Eric D. Knutson
1979 Donald C. Tillman	2012 James S. Paulsen
1980 Dominick J. Sanchini	2013 Dennis P. O'Donoghue
1981 Ben R. Rich	2014 Donald D. Wilkes
1982 Dr. Paul B. MacCready	2015 Richard D. Baily
1983 Charles G. Fargo	2016 Santiago A. Bulnes
1984 Dr. Malcom Currie	2017 Dr. George A. Pavlath
1985 Phillip V. King	2018 Dr. Dale E. Burton
1986 Sophia K. Ashley	2019 Scott C. Ward
1987 Dr. Rodney A. Boudreaux	2020 Howard McKenzie
1988 George J. Hallinan	2022 Robert Zmarzlak
1989 Paul H. Lane	2023 Peter Buck
1990 William F. Ezell	2024 Jim Maser
1991 Edward G. Linhart	2025 Scott Munro

## About the Award

The Engineer of the Year Award recognizes an individual with outstanding professional qualities who has a top reputation for both engineering accomplishments and leadership. Candidates are evaluated for an entire career of work in both their professional and civic lives. The Engineer of the Year is awarded a beautiful plaque and allowed to keep for one year's time – the Peter Recchia Omni Award. Each succeeding Engineer of the Year has been awarded this beautiful, original trophy conceived, designed, and produced by Peter Recchia, P.E., SME, AIEE. Mr. Recchia was a dedicated supporter of the engineering community and when he passed away, the Engineering Omni Award was renamed in his honor, "The Peter Recchia Omni Award."





# Engineer of the Year Award

## Peter Recchia Omni Award



### Steve Harris

**Chief Engineer  
Northrop Grumman Corporation  
San Diego, California**

**In recognition of exceptional contributions to the field of Engineering, providing technical leadership for key programs ensuring warfighter success.**

Steve Harris is a Chief Engineer at Northrop Grumman with 42 years of experience. Mr. Harris has extensive experience in guidance, navigation, and control applications on Unmanned Air Systems (UAS) and analysis and simulation of ballistic and cruise missiles. Since joining Teledyne Ryan Aeronautical in 1992, Mr. Harris has been a pioneer in High-Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) UAS leading the multi-disciplined Systems Analysis and Simulation Group on the Global Hawk UAS and contributing to several unmanned programs. Mr. Harris's latest contributions have been as the Technical Director for the NATO Alliance Ground Surveillance (AGS) program. In his role as Technical Director, he leads the NATO AGS System Design Responsible (SDR) delegation from the Italian Ministry of Defense Directorate of Air Armaments and Airworthiness (DAAA) that is required for a DAAA Military Type Certification. Mr. Harris led the program in achieving a permanent SDR delegation and the Military Type Certification (MTC) both necessary for fielding of the NATO AGS fleet in Sigonella, Italy. The MTC of a HALE UAS was the first of its kind in the industry. Mr. Harris is an Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and was recognized as a member of the 2000 Collier Trophy Award for Global Hawk, the Northrop Grumman President's Award in 2010 for development of XUAS, and the Northrop Grumman Division Award for Leadership on NATO AGS in 2025. Mr. Harris holds a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Virginia.

**Presented By: Scott Munro**

Retired Program Director  
Lockheed Martin Skunk Works®  
Palmdale, California



# ENGINEERING THE SKIES. REDEFINING FLIGHT.

As a proud sponsor of The Engineers' Council 71st Annual Honors and Awards Banquet, Lockheed Martin Skunk Works® congratulates the 2026 award recipients. Your achievements embody the same passion for empowering innovation that runs in our DNA.



**LOCKHEED MARTIN** 

LEARN MORE





# Outstanding Engineering Achievement Merit Award

**Sebastian C. Afshari**

*Lockheed Martin  
Palmdale, California*



In recognition of exceptional work supporting national defense in the role of aircraft conceptual design and for challenging norms.

**Dr. Qais Amarkhil**

*California State University, Northridge (CSUN)  
Northridge, California*



For designing and improving construction management courses, enhancing program effectiveness, and mentoring students for professional success.

**Farzin Dinyarian**

*Northrop Grumman Corporation  
Woodland Hills, California*



In recognition of exceptional technical leadership, distinguished mentorship, and outstanding contributions to advancing engineering programs, and to acknowledge work that has significantly enhanced organizational performance, technical excellence, and community impact.

**Matthew Fowler**

*L3Harris Technologies  
Redmond, Washington*



In recognition for exceptional dedication, expertise, and leadership, ensuring critical valve delivery and project success at the Redmond site and for embodying LHX's core values, providing mentorship, and proactive problem-solving.

**Tom Koho**

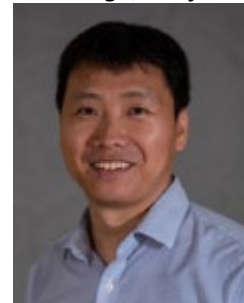
*L3Harris Technologies  
Redmond, Washington*



For significant accomplishments in structural analysis of in-space propulsion systems.

**Dr. BingBing Li**

*California State University, Northridge (CSUN)  
Northridge, California*



For distinguished contributions to Smart and Additive Manufacturing.





# Distinguished Engineering Project Achievement Award

## Advanced Hypersonic Technology Inertial Measurement Unit (AHT IMU)

Northrop Grumman Corporation  
Woodland Hills, California



For development and demonstration of a flight-rated, ruggedized hypersonic Inertial Measurement Unit that advanced precision, GPS-denied navigation through successful reusable hypersonic vehicle & rocket flight tests.

### Dr. Alexander Trusov

*Project Leader*

Team Members:

<b>Victor E. Akel</b>	<b>Daniel G. Fong</b>
<b>Dr. Simon Berman</b>	<b>Jorge Gutierrez</b>
<b>David M. Casaburi</b>	<b>Aaron Hofmann</b>
<b>Michael Chavez</b>	<b>Lawrence M. Linick</b>
<b>Youngmin A. Choi</b>	<b>Christopher Mitchell</b>
<b>Philip R. Clark</b>	<b>Daniel Rampacek</b>
<b>Farzin Dinyarian</b>	<b>Cole M. Umemura</b>

## HTE Team

Lockheed Martin  
Palmdale, California



For the rapid response to a vehicle delamination issue; analyzing the data, determining a repair, proving the repair technic, and testing the fix in three months.

### John Schoorl

*Project Leader*

Team Members:

<b>Robert Alliston</b>	<b>Robert McDonald</b>
<b>Roy Fierro</b>	<b>Kristian Melgar</b>
<b>Justin Gadowski</b>	<b>Edward Stratford</b>
<b>Rachel Kennedy</b>	<b>Liam Thompson</b>
<b>Issei Kobayashi</b>	<b>Michael Torres</b>
<b>Luke Lockwood</b>	<b>Serene Van Gent</b>
<b>Benjamin Mardiks</b>	<b>Scott Yamamura</b>

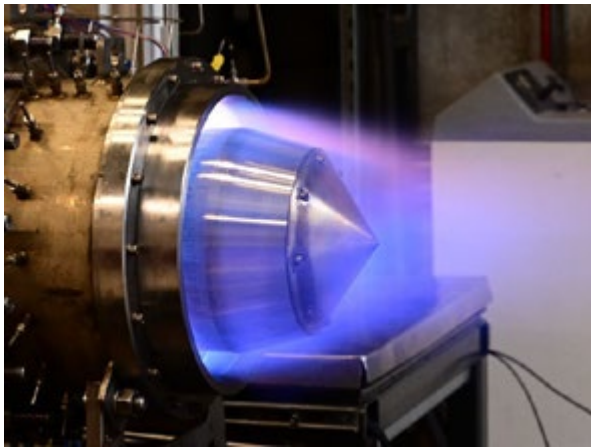




# Distinguished Engineering Project Achievement Award

## Rotating Detonation Engine Propulsion Technology

L3Harris Technologies  
Canoga Park, California



In recognition of advancing the state-of-the-art in propulsion technology by hot-fire demonstration of a full-scale RDE across the range of relevant flight conditions.

**Jeffrey Stout**

*Project Leader*

Team Members:

- Chris Brown**
- Derek Carter**
- Ashley James**
- Stephen Kubicki**
- Evan Unruh**
- James Venters**

## IN-13 Wind Tunnel Test Team

Lockheed Martin  
Palmdale, California



For successfully completing the IN-13 hypersonic inlet wind tunnel test.

**Patrick Kolar**

*Project Leader*

Team Members:

- |                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Christopher Bellido</b> | <b>Sevan Megerian</b> |
| <b>Kelly Burnham</b>       | <b>Ryan Miller</b>    |
| <b>Rory Handel</b>         | <b>Kyle Newnam</b>    |
| <b>Marcus Jackson</b>      | <b>Tony Pilon</b>     |
| <b>Demetrious Jarvis</b>   | <b>Matthew Sucher</b> |





# Past Recipients of the Clarence L. “Kelly” Johnson Skunk Works Award

1992 Clarence L. “Kelly” Johnson (Posth.)	2011 Frank J Cappuccio
1993 Maj. Gen. James A. Fain, Jr., USAF	2012 James E. Cartwright
1994 Major Gen. Richard Scofield, USAF	2013 Dr. Stephen Walker
1995 Ben R. Rich (Posthumously)	2014 Dr. Leyland Nicolai
1996 Gen. Joseph W. Ralston, USAF	2015 David Hamilton
1997 Gen. Howell M. Estes III, USAF	2016 C. Douglas Ebersole
1998 Lt. Gen. George K. Muellner, USAF	2017 Dr. George Ka’iliwai II
1999 Natalie W. Crawford	2018 John D.W. Corley Gen USAF (ret)
2000 Burt Rutan	2019 Steve Di Domenico
2001 Sherman N. Mullin	2020 Randall G. Walden
2002 Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson, USAF	2022 Jeff Babione
2003 Lt. Gen. Michael A. Hough, USMC	2023 Rod Makoske
2004 Lt. Gen. Harold W. Blot, USMC (ret.)	2024 Dr. Michael B. Leahy, Jr.
2005 Dain M. Hancock, LMAC	2025 Eric Knutson
2006 Dr. Anthony J. Tether, DARPA	
2007 Richard Heppe, LMAC	
2008 Gen. Gregory “Speedy” S. Martin (ret.)	
2009 Abraham Karem	
2010 Thomas J. Cassidy, Jr.	

## About the Award

First conferred in 1992, in conjunction with Council partner Lockheed Martin, the Clarence L. “Kelly” Johnson Memorial “Skunk Works” Award was created to honor and perpetuate the qualities, accomplishments and inspiration of Kelly Johnson. This award recognizes individuals who have constantly demonstrated leadership, inventiveness and rapid problem-solving skills throughout their careers. These individuals are recognized by their peers and executives for being mentors, leaders, and visionaries who continuously challenge and redefine the limits of aviation and aeronautical engineering. Candidates for this award are nominated directly by leadership of the Lockheed Martin Corporation.





# Clarence L. “Kelly” Johnson Skunk Works Award



## Larry Pellett

**Senior Advisor to the Deputy  
Secretary of War**

Office of the Secretary of War  
Pentagon, Arlington Virginia

**For embodying Kelly Johnson’s 14 Rules  
of Management, driving innovative ISR,  
stealth, and autonomous systems that  
advance national security and  
aerospace excellence.**

Larry Pellet is the Senior Advisor to the Deputy Secretary of War, guiding aviation, survivability, production scaling and unmanned initiatives. Prior to this role he held pivotal positions at Lockheed Martin’s Skunk Works®, including Vice President ISR & UAS, Director of Major Programs, Director of Signature Management & Survivability, and F-22 Program Manager, leading development, integration and lean manufacturing of stealth aircraft such as the F-22, F-35, JASSM and numerous classified platforms. He is a National Academy of Engineering member and a former Atlanta IEEE APS/MTT Society president. Recognized with the 2018 LM Aeronautics President’s Award, 2015 Nova Award, NDIA Survivability Technical Award, and the inaugural 1996 Silver Skunk Award, he also holds a patent on radar-signature verification. An author and educator, he earned an MBA from UCLA and dual master’s degrees in Electrical Engineering from Georgia Tech and UCLA, underpinning a career of relentless innovation and mission-focused excellence.

**Presented By: Ron "Epic" Fehlen**

Deputy to Skunkworks® Vice President & General Manager  
Lockheed Martin  
Palmdale, California





# Distinguished Engineering and Engineering Educator Achievement Awards



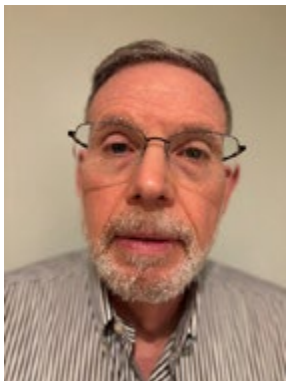
**Brian Koch**  
*L3Harris Technologies*  
*Redmond, Washington*

In recognition of exceptional contributions to power electronics design, mentorship, and innovative solutions in Electric Propulsion systems, resulting in world class capabilities for the organization.



**Dr. Craig Skoch**  
*Lockheed Martin*  
*Palmdale, California*

In recognition of significant contributions to hypersonic technology maturation and technical leadership on multiple hypersonic development programs.



**Dr. Alan J. Marcus**  
*Northrop Grumman Corporation*  
*Woodland Hills, California*

For distinguished achievement in algorithm research and development, addressing longstanding signal processing problems with innovative solutions and supporting their implementation.



**Peter Schilhavy**  
*L3Harris Technologies*  
*Canoga Park, California*

For exceptional leadership in rocket motor design and engineering.



**Dr. Richard Wesel**  
*University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)*  
*Los Angeles, California*

In recognition of exceptional contributions to the education and professional development of engineering undergraduate and graduate students at UCLA and engineering students at community colleges across the state of California.





# Outstanding Engineering Achievement Merit Award

**Dr. Marjan Asadinia**

*California State University, Northridge (CSUN)  
Northridge, California*



For outstanding achievement in the field of advanced computer micro-architecture and non-volatile memory systems.

**Michael Diaz**

*Northrop Grumman Corporation  
San Diego, California*



In recognition of outstanding engineering leadership in helping Northrop Grumman achieve the permanent NATO AGS System Design Responsible designation from the Italian MoD.

**Michael Hong**

*L3Harris Technologies  
Redmond, Washington*



For exceptional technical leadership in electrical component qualification and issue resolution.

**Dr. Melih Papila**

*California State University, Northridge (CSUN)  
Northridge, California*



For distinguished contributions to sustainable composite technologies and student mentorship, advancing vitrimer-based, multifunctional structures recognized by national awards, while building impactful, student-centered research programs addressing energy-efficient, reusable engineering systems.

**Marc M. Protacio**

*Lockheed Martin  
Palmdale, California*



For fundamentally altering project development workflow, demonstrating a rapid parallel design process, and replacing the traditional linear conceptual design approach within the Flight Sciences team.

**Mike Wietstruk**

*L3Harris Technologies  
Canoga Park, California*



For significant accomplishments in structural analysis of liquid rocket engines in both the Space and Defense sectors.





# Distinguished Engineering Project Achievement Award

## Maritime ATR Demo Team

Lockheed Martin  
Palmdale, California



For demonstrating an AI-enabled maritime surveillance capability that autonomously detects, classifies, and re-tasks a sensor to differentiate combatant from civilian vessels without manual analysis.

### Patrick Clark

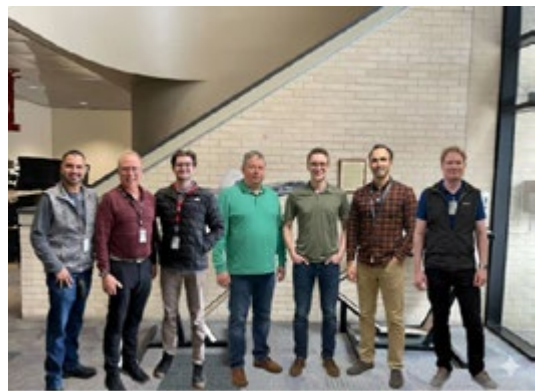
*Project Leader*

Team Members:

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Zachary Barron  | Drew Hopkins    |
| Gerardo Churion | Collin Kinder   |
| Kyle Czech      | William Klemens |
| Jansen Day      | Eric Marx       |
| Brandon Faias   | Victor Munoz    |
| Marilyn Hendrix | Jacob Sprague   |

## RF Material Properties Extraction Tool Team

Northrop Grumman Corporation  
San Diego, California



In recognition of successful standardization of material properties extraction and measurement uncertainty estimation across Northrop Grumman's Aeronautics Systems sector.

### Edward J. Ruskowski

*Project Leader*

Team Members:

- Brandon Bartlett
- Joseph Gomez
- Glen Hilderbrand
- Josh Peterson
- Ethan Raines
- Yianni Tzanidis





# Distinguished Engineering Project Achievement Award

## Acceptance Testing and Delivery of AEPS Thrusters for the NASA Lunar Gateway

L3Harris Technologies  
Redmond, Washington



For successful completion of acceptance testing and delivery of AEPS thrusters for the NASA Lunar Gateway.

**Dr. Ellie Forbes**  
*Project Leader*

Team Members:

- |                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Jacob Bozlinski | Tyler Martin        |
| Ryan Bratcher   | David Moya          |
| Cheong Chan     | Mike Music          |
| Megan Clements  | Jeffrey Pan         |
| Michael Dai     | Krystal ParkerMeyer |
| Earvin Domingo  | Hannah Watts        |
| Amber Fritch    | Dieter Zube         |
| Benjamin Glassy |                     |

## U-2S 1099 Rebuild Team

Lockheed Martin  
Palmdale, California



For the team contributions in rebuilding A/C 1099 -nicknamed the “Franken Bird” and reborn as “Phoenix” - by ingeniously merging two heavily damaged U-2S airframes into a single, mission-ready platform.

**Doris Gebelein**  
*Project Leader*

Team Members:

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Alex Algutria     | Adam Klienpell    |
| Amy Avila         | Jennifer Martin   |
| Rocco Corbo       | Frank Medina      |
| Brandon Dominguez | Nicholas Morrison |
| Jeremy Driscoll   | Kasey Parker      |
| Jeff Dutton       | Larry Pertzborn   |
| Victor Flores     | Paul Spradley     |





# Award Descriptions



## FUTURE TECHNOLOGY LEADER AWARD

With this award, the Engineers' Council recognizes early career professionals who have achieved significant accomplishments in a particular area of engineering activity within the first five years of their career. The effort being recognized may be for technical excellence and leadership during contract fulfillment, product development, or within academia as an engineering educator, or purely for the internal operation of the nominating or sponsoring organization. Candidates may receive one award in this category during their career. The work cited may be for a solely individual effort or for work which is part of a larger group activity. Nomination or award in this category does not preclude the individual from being named on a related Distinguished Engineering Project Award.



## OUTSTANDING ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT MERIT AWARD

With this award, the Engineers' Council recognizes individuals who have achieved significant accomplishments in a particular area of engineering activity within the past year. The effort being recognized may be for academic research, contract fulfillment, product development or purely for the internal operation of the nominating or sponsoring organization. Candidates may receive multiple awards in this category during their careers, but never more than once for the same technical effort. The work cited may be for a solely individual effort or for work which is part of a larger group activity. Nomination or award in this category does not preclude the individual from being named on a related Distinguished Engineering Project Award.



## DISTINGUISHED ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

With this award, the Engineers' Council recognizes individuals who are outstanding in professional qualities and have a top reputation for engineering accomplishments and leadership. Candidates should be senior staff members in a position of leadership and mentorship, with responsibility for a significant amount of both personnel and budget. Candidates for this award are typically in, but not limited to, the position of director, vice president, chief engineer or equivalent. Important criteria for this nomination include both the individual's entire career and civic contributions. No individual may receive this award more than once.



## DISTINGUISHED ENGINEERING EDUCATOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

With this award, the Engineers' Council recognizes individuals who are outstanding in professional qualities and have a top reputation for engineering education, mentorship and leadership. Candidates for this award are typically, but not limited to, senior university faculty. Candidates should either be individuals who contribute significantly to students' academic and extracurricular engineering fulfillment and enrichment or scholars who have made significant contributions to academic or industrial research. Important criteria for this nomination include both the individual's entire career and civic contributions. No individual may receive this award more than once.



## DISTINGUISHED ENGINEERING PROJECT AWARD

With this award, the Engineers' Council recognizes public or private organizations or consulting firms that during the past three years have brought to fulfillment engineering projects which, because of their scope or unique character, are outstanding and deserving of merit. Individual subsystems or test and evaluation efforts which are integral to a much larger project may be nominated for separate awards. Nominations must include the name of a project leader designated to receive the award on behalf of the entire team and a list of participating team members. A team must consist of at least 3 individuals and typically does not exceed 15. Nominators should provide a thorough and detailed description of the technical effort and its significance and merits to facilitate the review and evaluation by the Honors and Awards Committee.



## OUTSTANDING STEM EDUCATOR AWARD

With this award, the Engineers' Council recognizes individuals who have devoted themselves to K through 12 education in the fields of science, technology, engineering or mathematics. These selfless individuals inspire and mentor young students to open their minds to the wonders of the universe and encourage them down a path of exploration and complex problem solving. This award is presented to teachers working at K-12 institutions as well as individuals working in industry or at university in activities that directly influence K-12 STEM education. The Outstanding STEM Educator Award is unique in that candidates are typically nominated by an industrial or university sponsor that wishes to further honor the candidate by supporting their attendance at the honors and awards banquet. This award was created to allow The Engineers' Council as well as our numerous benefactors to demonstrate our profound gratitude for the teachers who inspired us and so many other students before and those yet to come.





# Credits

## International Space Station Message

NASA Astronaut and Expedition 73/74 Flight Engineer -- Photo Credit NASA <https://www.nasa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/williams-c.pdf?emrc=d89206> ; <https://www.nasa.gov/international-space-station/>  
ISS Video Message – Courtesy of L3Harris Technologies; Arranged by Julie Zingerman from L3Harris Technologies  
[Banquet Event -- Assistance with the cost of Audio/Video](#)

Lockheed Martin

## Venue Sponsorship for the 2026 MATHCOUNTS San Fernando Valley Chapter Competition

CSUN Andrew J. Anagnost College of Engineering and Computer Science (Dean Dr. Houssam A. Toutanji) and  
CSUN College of Science and Math (Dean Dr. Jerry N. Stinner)

## Banquet Committee:

Sonja Domazet (chair)	Dr. Marek Z. Barylak	Connor Davainis	Kenneth G. Davis
	Stephen Guine	Connor Reyes	Noelle Saccoccio
	Eli G. Stiny	Thomas Tarn	Rob Vermeland
	Michael Yao	Chyrl Yeatts	Dr. Jackie Zev

## Honors and Awards Committee

Kenneth G. Davis (chair)	Dr. Marek Z. Barylak	Sonja Domazet	Stephen K. Guine
	Noelle Saccoccio	Eli G. Stiny	Thomas R. Tarn
	Rob Vermeland	Chyrl Yeatts	Dr. Jackie Zev

## Scholarships and Charitable Giving Committee

Rudy Montalvo (chair)	Eli G. Stiny (MATHCOUNTS)	Dr. Jackie Zev (TechTrek)	Jerry Kraim, P.E.
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## Event Hosts

KELCEY & CO	Melody Wachtel
L3Harris Technologies	Roberto Alvarez, Thomas Tarn, Chyrl Yeatts
Lockheed Martin	Cheryl Belis, Derek Morris, David Silva-Melendez
JPL	Justin Diaz
UC Davis	Paige Dailey, Paul Dylan, Pierce Trinephi

## Awards Assembly

Dr. Marek Z. Barylak	Connor Davainis	Kenneth G. Davis	Justin Diaz
Stephen Guine	Sonja Domazet	Noelle Saccoccio	Robert Tarn
Michael Yao	Chyrl Yeatts	Dr. Jackie Zev	

## Florida Banquet Committee

Cris Vigil, PE, LEED AP  
(chair)

## Awards Artwork

Mike Matte	Tatjana Odovic	Zahra Ali	Prachi Roi
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## Program Cover Artwork

Shubham Prakash

## Program Content & Design

Sonja Domazet

## Program Proofreaders

Dr. Marek Z. Barylak	Susan Marcus	Dr. Jackie Zev
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## Banquet Audio & Video

Encore

Banquet Photographer  
"Jordan Ring Photography"

We would like to hear from you, please  
scan the QR code for a brief survey.



Thank you and good night!

