

AAE

Aviation
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Engineering

A W A R D S B A N Q U E T

FEBRUARY 19TH
KRAVIS CENTER, COHEN PAVILION
6PM - 9PM

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Event Program

Presentation of Colors & National Anthem

Lake Worth Community High School Air Force JROTC
& Madison Ibone

Opening Remarks

J. Michael Prince, BDB Board Chair
USPA Global [U.S. Polo Assn.]

Presenting Sponsor Remarks

Desmond Greene, Director, Business
Operations & Finance
L3 Harris - Aerojet Rocketdyne

Presentation of Merit & Project Achievement Awards

Michael McGann, Emcee
Legends 100.3

Keynote Speaker

P. Barry Butler, Ph.D., University President
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Continued Presentation of Project Achievement Awards

Michael McGann, Emcee
Legends 100.3

Presentation of Future Technology, STEM Education, & Individual Awards

Cris Vigil, Sr. Vice President & Principal
BRPH

Presenting Sponsor:



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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.



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Tonight's Keynote Speaker



P. Barry Butler, Ph.D.
University President

EMBRY-RIDDLE
Aeronautical University
100 YEARS | 1926-2026

P. Barry Butler serves as president of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, composed of Colleges of Aeronautics; Arts & Sciences; Aviation; Business; Engineering; and Business, Security and Intelligence. Embry-Riddle educates over 30,000 students annually at campuses in Daytona Beach, Florida, and Prescott, Arizona, and through the top-ranked Worldwide Campus.

Under his leadership since 2017, Embry-Riddle has expanded academic, industry and government partnerships to advance the study of aviation and aerospace safety, data analytics, and aviation cybersecurity. These partnerships have strengthened discovery-driven education and led to the creation of two centers of excellence: the Center for Aerospace Resilient Systems and the Boeing Center for Aviation & Aerospace Safety. The university has also significantly expanded its Research Park, an ecosystem of aviation- and space-focused start-ups and leading companies. The latest addition is the ultra-modern Cici and Hyatt Brown Center for Aerospace Technology, which is the new home of a Boeing engineering center of excellence.

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As a strong advocate for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, Butler has supported a dual-enrollment program with the Gaetz Aerospace Career Academy. The academy offers university courses to students in more than 200 Florida secondary schools. At the Arizona Campus, the STEM Education Center serves as a hub of enrichment for students, faculty, researchers and the community.

Enhancing space-related curricula is a presidential priority, which has resulted in the launch of a Master of Space Operations degree. Butler also encourages student engagement in hands-on, real-world research. Students have sent projects to space, including a camera system that became the first student-designed project to reach the moon. Another point of pride is the commissioning of ROTC graduates to serve in the U.S. Space Force.

Previously, Butler was Executive Vice President and Provost of the University of Iowa. He was responsible for more than 100 academic programs across 11 colleges. For 10 years, he served as Dean of the College of Engineering.

He holds three degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: a bachelor's in Aeronautical Engineering, a master's in Astronautical Engineering and a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering. He has served as a visiting research fellow and consultant to government and private R&D organizations. He is a licensed pilot and glider pilot.

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AAE Industry Cluster in The Palm Beaches

About

Palm Beach County is a recognized national leader in Aviation / Aerospace / Engineering (A/A/E), located in the state of Florida, the second largest state for aerospace. The titans of the aviation industry, including Lockheed Martin Corporation, L3Harris - Aerojet Rocketdyne, Pratt & Whitney, Collins Aerospace, Sikorsky a Lockheed Martin Company, Northrop Grumman and more, call the Palm Beaches home.

The Numbers

1,960 companies

21,524 jobs

\$137,900 average salary

5.2 Billion Total Gross Regional Product

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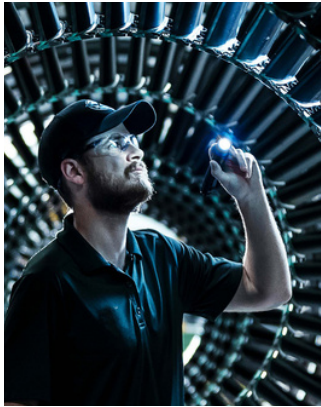
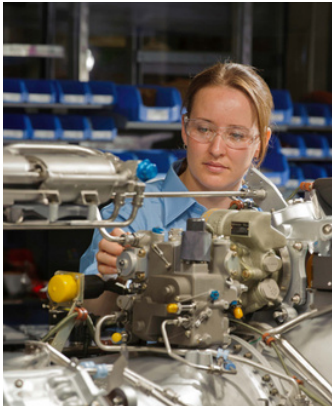
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Outstanding Engineering Achievement Merit Awards

Christopher Murry

Principal Design Engineer
Pratt & Whitney, an RTX Business

Christopher Coffman

Senior Technical Leader
Belcan - a Cognizant Company

Javier Manso

Associate VP of Southeast Florida Transportation
Business Group Leader
HDR

Pete Libardoni

Senior Specialist Aerospace Engineer
L3 Harris - Aerojet Rocketdyne

Andrew Cherisol

Control Software Engineer
Belcan - a Cognizant Company

Paul Yeargain

Engineering Manager
City of Oviedo, FL

Steven Sommerfeldt

Office Practice Director
Ardurra

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Outstanding Engineering Achievement Merit Awards

Brendan Currie

Senior Technical Lead
Belcan - a Cognizant Company

Frank Barnes

Lead Aerospace Engineer
L3 Harris - Aerojet Rocketdyne

Brandon Morris

Principal Structures Engineer, Hot Section Engineering
Pratt & Whitney, an RTX Business

Nikolas Macko

Performance Flight Test Engineer
Sikorsky, a Lockheed Martin Company

Donnie Brooks

Scientist Systems Engineer
L3 Harris - Aerojet Rocketdyne

Gabriel Centeno

F135 HPC Base Rotors IPTL
Pratt & Whitney, an RTX Business

Jay Dorney

Senior Staff Cybersecurity Systems Engineer
Northrop Grumman

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Outstanding Engineering Achievement Merit Awards

Mary Spalding

Aerodynamics Engineer
Agilis Engineering

Nick Cicchini

Scientist Systems Engineer
L3 Harris – Aerojet Rocketdyne

Chris Brandwood

Propulsion Flight Test Engineer
Sikorsky, a Lockheed Martin Company

Winston Chico

Lead Mechanical Engineer
L3 Harris – Aerojet Rocketdyne

Alfredo Cires

Principal Engineer
PSM, a Hanwha Company

Jarrett Knottnerus

Mechanical Design Engineer
Agilis Engineering

Joseph Windle

Lead, Project Engineer
L3 Harris – Aerojet Rocketdyne

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Outstanding Engineering Project Achievement Award



Pratt & Whitney
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Closed Loop Wet Bench Test Facility Team

Team Lead: *Adriana Huet de Bacellar*

Team Members:

Eduardo Gorrochotegui

Jim Berry

Tim Polick

Bill Paris

Davy Parham

Matt Haupt

Jason Rosner

Bryce Sahlberg

Travis Happs

Robert Pierce

John Christian

Muzi Wang

Jack Tilghman

Brad Gallagher

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Outstanding Engineering Project Achievement Award



CFM56-5B/7B High Pressure Turbine Blade PMA Team

Team Lead: Gary Bash

Team Members:

*Doug Duke
Stefan Maier
Michael Spear
James Coakley
Page Strohl*

*Dave Parker
Steve Xiao
Jeff Taylor
Brian Huot
Mark Hitt*

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Outstanding Engineering Project Achievement Award



RS-25 HPTP Modeling & Redraw Team

Team Lead: Jennifer Litschauer

Team Members:

Amanda Mietus

Corey Zucker

Winston Chico

Bill Sealey

Nathan Floyd

Mia Wormus

Daniel Singer

An Le

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Outstanding Engineering Project Achievement Award

**NORTHROP
GRUMMAN**

Japan E-2D Wet Outer Wing Panel Fatigue Test Team

Team Lead: Joseph Strzyz

Team Members:

Scott Gedney

Quan Nguyen

Guna Kaliappan

Michael Woodruff

Tim Stauffer

Sebastian Grasso

Loren Durham

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Outstanding Engineering Project Achievement Award

BRPH

Boeing 88-48 Team

Team Lead: Jake Frederick

Team Members:

Matthew Rohaus

Matt Miller

Andy Miller

Brian Curtin

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Outstanding Engineering Project Achievement Award



Pratt & Whitney
An **RTX** Business

F135 Base & ECU Program Diffuser/Combuster CIPT Leadership Team

Team Lead: Bashir Chu

Team Members:

Keith Cook

Pedro Rivero

Jose Ruberte Sanchez

Larry George

Daniel Wetherby

Juan Pablo Lopez

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Outstanding Engineering Project Achievement Award



RL10CX Qualification Test Team

Team Lead: David Avalos

Team Members:

<i>Braden Urban</i>	<i>Tyler Buchanan</i>
<i>Scott Bonner</i>	<i>Brandon Godefroy</i>
<i>Daniel Blanc</i>	<i>Donnie Brooks</i>
<i>Danon Dixon</i>	<i>Mitch Brown</i>
<i>Devany Sweitzer</i>	<i>Ricky Schied</i>
<i>Amanda Stefanik</i>	<i>Pedro Fong</i>
<i>Pete Libardoni</i>	<i>Jose Gomez</i>

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Outstanding Engineering Project Achievement Award



GTOP4 AM R1N Project Team

Team Lead: Megan Jenkins

Team Members:

*Michele Borja
Jaclyn Kelly
Ralphoine Chacon
Vlad Besmer
Douglas Dietrich
Mark Zangara
James Brackett
William Day*

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Outstanding Engineering Project Achievement Award



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2026 LRMF Test Campaign Team

Team Lead: Christopher Rock

Team Members:

Robert Moehlenkamp

Jonathan Pletsch

Nikolaus Ladisch

Rodriguez Andres

Phillip Redman

Isaac Davanzati

Brendan Ventura

Daniel Melillo

Bradley Behrens

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Outstanding Engineering Project Achievement Award



Pratt & Whitney
An **RTX** Business

Ultra High Speed Starter Generator Team

Team Lead: Adam Smith

Team Members:

Ryan Mitchell

Santiago Lattanzio

Donny Davis

Damon Brown

Bo Zheng

Amar Rajbhandari

Dan Olano

Sami Chukrallah

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Outstanding Engineering Project Achievement Award



GTOP4 Single Crystal R1B Development Team

Team Lead: Elena Pizano

Team Members:

*Nathan O’Nora
Douglas Dietrich
Jaclyn Kelly
Breck Dorsey
James Brackett
John Hunt
Steven Swalm
William Day*

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Outstanding Engineering Project Achievement Award



Sunbreak Substation & Transmissions Lines Team

Team Lead: Osmaida Howe

Team Members:

*Victoria Toris
Matt Schouwink
David Herrera
Anthony Collins
Luis Carvajal
Trevor Buys
Chaimae El Ghzaoui
Luca Fasani
Bud Pflug*

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Outstanding Engineering Project Achievement Award

BRPH

Epic Universe – Nintendo Team

Team Lead: Francisco Alvarado

Team Members:

Cris Vigil

Matthew Chambers

Tom Wood

Daniel Quinones

Kalyn Leblanc

Gabe Cline

Andrew Grubbs

Rey Kyle

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Outstanding Engineering Project Achievement Award



Pratt & Whitney
An **RTX** Business

Platinum-Rhodum Alloy High Temperature Durability Assessment Tool Development Team

Team Lead: Tyler Englerth

Team Members:

Michael Walker

Robert Means

Chris Vargas

Sarah Watkins

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Outstanding Engineering Project Achievement Award



Virtual Service Planner Assistant Team

Team Lead: Rob Adams

Team Members:

James Pike

Justin Odom

Joshua Zehnder

Wallace Woodard

Heather Huszar

Ramya Purimani

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Outstanding Engineering Project Achievement Award



Eagle Ray ROV 1 Build Completion Team

Team Lead: *Stephen Bethel*

Team Members:

<i>Derek Medellin</i>	<i>Tyler Maignan</i>
<i>Josh Martin</i>	<i>Casey Campfield</i>
<i>Derek Weiss</i>	<i>Dave Dupont</i>
<i>JohnMarc Bryan</i>	<i>Charles Judge</i>
<i>Grant Somerville</i>	<i>Wade Shaw</i>
<i>Andrew Meyer</i>	<i>John Jarbeau</i>
<i>Jacob Christensen</i>	<i>Jim Whitney</i>

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Outstanding Engineering Project Achievement Award



Pratt & Whitney
An **RTX** Business

SPS Technology Fire Recovery: Enterprise Bolted-Joint Redesign Team

Team Lead: Laurence Roberts

Team Members:

Nickolas Jones

Mei Tseng

Luis Ruiz

Michael Piskorz

David Watson

Jonathan Gutierrez

Gerardo Ramos

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Outstanding Engineering Project Achievement Award

**NORTHROP
GRUMMAN**

Weapon Systems Cybersecurity Team

Team Lead: *Jonathan Wallhauser*

Team Members:

Jay Dorney

James Morgan

Jose Angulo

Desmond Barnhill

Sarah Terragna

Michael Quinones Muniz

Chalynne Clark

Armando Hysko

Jason Hensley

Sara Goldfarb

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Distinguished Future Technology Leader Awards

Andres Rodriguez

Structures Engineer

L3 Harris – Aerojet Rocketdyne

Aaron Campbell

Specialist Project Engineer

L3 Harris – Aerojet Rocketdyne

Alex Diez

Specialist Systems Engineer

L3 Harris – Aerojet Rocketdyne

Ashley Stroup

Senior Structures Engineer in Hot Section Engineering

Pratt & Whitney, an RTX Business

Garrett Moler

Principal Systems Engineer

Pratt & Whitney, an RTX Business

Andrew Dziminowicz

Engineer

Belcan - a Cognizant Company

Presenting Sponsor:



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Distinguished Future Technology Leader Awards

Javier Gil

Senior Technical Leader
Belcan - a Cognizant Company

Chakira Morris

Technical Specialist
Belcan - a Cognizant Company

Andrew Grubbs

Electrical Designer
BRPH Companies

Kaylee Thompson

Sr. Principal Materials & Processors Engineer
Northrop Grumman

Julianna Whan

Principal Aeronautical Engineer
Northrop Grumman

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Distinguished Future Technology Leader Awards

Logan Clark

Mechanical Design Engineer
Agilis Engineering

Alexander Belokobylka

Structures Engineer
Agilis Engineering

Seth Stock

Handling Qualities Flight Test Engineer
Sikorsky, a Lockheed Martin Company

Jackson Nunley

Software Engineer
Sikorsky, a Lockheed Martin Company

Alexis Baugh

Project Engineer
Geotechnical & Environmental Consultants, Inc.

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STEM Educator Award



Sudhagar Nagarajan

Associate Professor & Associate Chair
Florida Atlantic University

Dr. Nagarajan is a recognized expert with over 30 research publications and presentations on the use of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) based sensing technologies, including multispectral and hyperspectral cameras, LiDAR sensors, and geospatial AI-based processing techniques for shoreline monitoring and coastal vegetation mapping. This technology is implemented in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) owned by Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area (ONA). The research results assisted ONA management in securing funding from the federal government for various shoreline stabilization and restoration projects.

Dr. Nagarajan and his colleagues have been working to raise the importance of STEM education in middle and high schools in Palm Beach and Broward Counties through three funded NASA educational research projects since 2018. These projects focused on STEM topics, including remote sensing, acoustics, water quality monitoring, and additive manufacturing. This active effort has so far impacted more than 5000 middle and high school students and hundreds of STEM educators in Florida and New Mexico.

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STEM Educator Award



Dr. Xiangnan Zhong

Assistant Professor

Florida Atlantic University

Dr. Zhong has published 10 research papers in 2025, including one at the premier AAAI-26 Conference on “Decoupling Shared and Personalized Knowledge: A Dual-Branch Federated Learning Framework for Multi-Domain with Non-IID Data”, proposes a novel dual-branch learning paradigm that effectively disentangles global shared knowledge from client-specific features, significantly advancing the robustness, generalizability, and performance of federated learning in heterogeneous environments.

Dr. Zhong delivered 7 invited talks in 2025, including a distinguished Lightning Talk at the NSF Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) Principal Investigators (PI) Meeting. Dr. Zhong’s talks emphasized the integration of AI, intelligent control, and cyber-physical systems, highlighting innovative research on data-driven control, federated intelligence, and secure autonomous systems. Her talks also ignited early interest in STEM fields, helping students visualize careers in AI, robotics, and intelligent systems. These outreach efforts broadened the educational impact of her work, fostering collaboration and knowledge transfer.

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STEM Educator Award



Kevin Simmons

Chief Executive Officer
Wolfpack CubeSat Development Team

Mr. Kevin Simmons is a nationally recognized leader in STEM education whose work sits at the intersection of aerospace (CubeSats), entrepreneurship, education, and policy. As Co-creator of the SmallSat Education Conference, held annually at the AMF-CSE Building at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, he has helped shape meaningful dialogue and collaboration in the small satellite community. He serves on the AIAA SmallSat Technical Committee and the AIAA Education Committee, and has been privileged to work in research laboratories, the chemical industry, and the military prior to entering the classroom. Mr. Simmons was selected as Principal Investigator of WeissSat-1 (launched 2018) and CapSat-1 (launched 2022) through NASA's CSLI program, served as Co-Investigator for FlipSat-1 (launched 2024), and is Principal Investigator of WolfSat-1, a CubeSat recently selected by Firefly for launch through its DREAM 2.0 Program. His leadership also extends to national service, having been named an Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellow at NSF (2009-2011) and serving as a Senior Policy Analyst at the National Science Foundation (ENG-IIP) from 2011-2015. He currently serves as a Limitless Space Institute Ambassador, NASA AAPT HEAT Physics Ambassador, Space Foundation Teacher Liaison, and ISS Educator Ambassador.

In 2025, Mr. Simmons was honored with the AIAA Trailblazing STEM Educator Award, the Christa McAuliffe National Space Educator Award, and the Space Force Association Leadership in Education Award.

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Congratulations to all the Honorees and Award Winners



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Quality Engineer of the Year Award



Estefania Calderaio

Senior Specialist Quality Engineer



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About the Awardee:

Estefani served as the lead on the CAR-15560 team, working to standardize 9CC5012P MRB training and examinations across all sites in order to promote strategic alignment and reduce escapes. In 2025, she led the updated 9CC5012P MRB training for 13 total MRB candidates and supported the RS-25 High Pressure effort to meet the Addressable NCR RS-25 NASA Incentive. This incentive targeted an NCR disposition stage age of less than 10 days, driving faster disposition and approval of NCRs.

She has also led several RS-25 High Pressure CARs, including SCAR-15670 against Moeller, one of the top RS-25 COPQ suppliers for 2024. As SCAR lead, she drove cause analysis deeper to uncover a systemic corrective action contributing to 22 NCRs (\$88K COPQ) in 2024, which was reduced to only 5 NCRs in the first 9 months of 2025. This mindset of systemic containment and thorough cause analysis continues to be applied across other CARs.

Estefania holds a Master of Science in Industrial Engineering from the University of Central Florida and a Bachelor of Science in Industrial and Systems Engineering from the University of Florida.

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Distinguished Engineering Achievement Awards



Corey Brown
Scientist Systems Engineer
L3Harris - Aerojet Rocketdyne

Corey is a highly respected leader in engine systems modeling and analysis within the Propulsion Systems Analysis (PSA) department at Aerojet Rocketdyne. He has demonstrated exceptional mentorship, guiding new PSA team members in evaluating innovative engine designs and delivering results with efficiency and precision. Corey played a pivotal role in the 48K engine program Request For Information (RFI) for United Launch Alliance (ULA) in 2025. His expertise was instrumental in developing ROCETS design models that directly contributed to the selection of the closed expander cycle for the new engine design. As the subject matter expert for upper stage liquid expander cycle engines, Corey has dedicated his career to advancing new concepts in this critical area of rocket propulsion. His technical leadership and commitment to innovation continue to drive success for both his team and the company.



Andrew Miller
Chief Engineer
BRPH Companies

Andy provides leadership as a BRPH Vice President and Chief Engineer. He manages the multi-discipline engineering department overseeing resources and the enhancement and maintenance of the BRPH first-class team. Andy joined BRPH in 1982 as a structural engineer, and over his tenure has provided structural systems design for major governmental, educational, aerospace, entertainment, hospitality and manufacturing/industrial projects. He led improvements in building framing/structure methods and designs to decrease erection and construction time which reduced overall project costs while producing high-quality design. Andy earned a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

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Bruce McDavid

Sr. Manager, Project Engineer
L3Harris - Aerojet Rocketdyne

Bruce has demonstrated exceptional leadership and technical expertise in Aerospace Engineering and Project Management for 40 years. Responsible for the Project and Component Engineering discipline supporting Space and Advanced Defense Programs, he has adeptly developed project engineers and provided crucial leadership in proposal reviews and technical milestones.



Jeff Stewart

Mechanical Design Engineer
Agilis Engineering

Jeff joined the Design Engineering team at Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Company (P&W) in 1979 where he began supporting the F100 design team working in the gearbox, bearing, augmentor, and HPC groups. After gaining extensive design experience, he then moved to the advanced design group to support the F100 Increased Life Core (ILC) initiative before designing the rotor shaft system for a small engine development program. Jeff then joined the PW5000 (F119) turbine design team. After a brief period at Allison Gas Turbines and GE Small Aircraft Engines, Jeff returned to P&W and resumed work in the F119 turbine group. As a result of his contributions and expertise, he was promoted to Lead Designer and Turbine Tiger Team member. Jeff invented the innovative, patented Modulated Exhaust Cooling (MEC) System which made it possible to achieve the challenging F119 product specifications for operability and supercruise performance – perhaps his single most outstanding accomplishment during his tenure at P&W.



Gregory Goebel

Senior Turbomachinery Assembly Engineer
L3Harris - Aerojet Rocketdyne

Greg has flawlessly led the engineering support of RS-25 turbomachinery assembly for the two high pressure turbopumps and the two low pressure turbopumps. This has involved mentoring new engineering, OPS and Quality team members, reviewing first new make hardware ensuring conformity to requirements and exhibiting the flexibility to address late arriving hardware and minimizing schedule impacts. Greg has also provided valuable input back to the hardware design and fabrication teams to prevent or mitigate new make hardware concerns. Additionally Greg has been a valuable resource to the Stennis Space Center LPTP final assembly team.

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Distinguished Engineering Educator Award



Mahsa Ranji

Professor

Florida Atlantic University

Dr. Mahsa Ranji's research program in biophotonics, optical imaging, and bioinstrumentation has been continuously productive and interdisciplinary, spanning biomedical engineering, medicine, and biomedical sciences. She mentors multiple graduate students and publishes in high-impact journals regularly, including Journal of Biophotonics, IEEE JTEHM, Biomed Optics Express, and annals of Biomedical Engineering.

She prioritizes research training and mentoring as central to her academic mission. She has supervised numerous students, many of whom have earned competitive fellowships, internships, and positions in industry and government, including the FDA. Besides mentoring her own graduate and undergraduate students, she is currently serving as PhD committee member of six other students in the graduate program. Her commitment includes expanding research opportunities, strengthening BME graduate curriculum, and promoting equitable access to career pathways.



Bob O'Dea

Associate Dean

Palm Beach State College

Dr. Bob O'Dea brought multi-decade industry experience in advanced research to the academic world, first as a mentor, then as a professor of Engineering and Electrical Power Technology, and now as an associate dean of Trade & Industry. He has devoted his work to advancing the students, creating supportive environment for the students and faculty, cultivating industry ties, and growing and supporting the engineering profession in South Florida. During this time, Dr. O'Dea has always remained approachable by the students, faculty and staff, always smiling, willing to listen and talk, always being there for the others.

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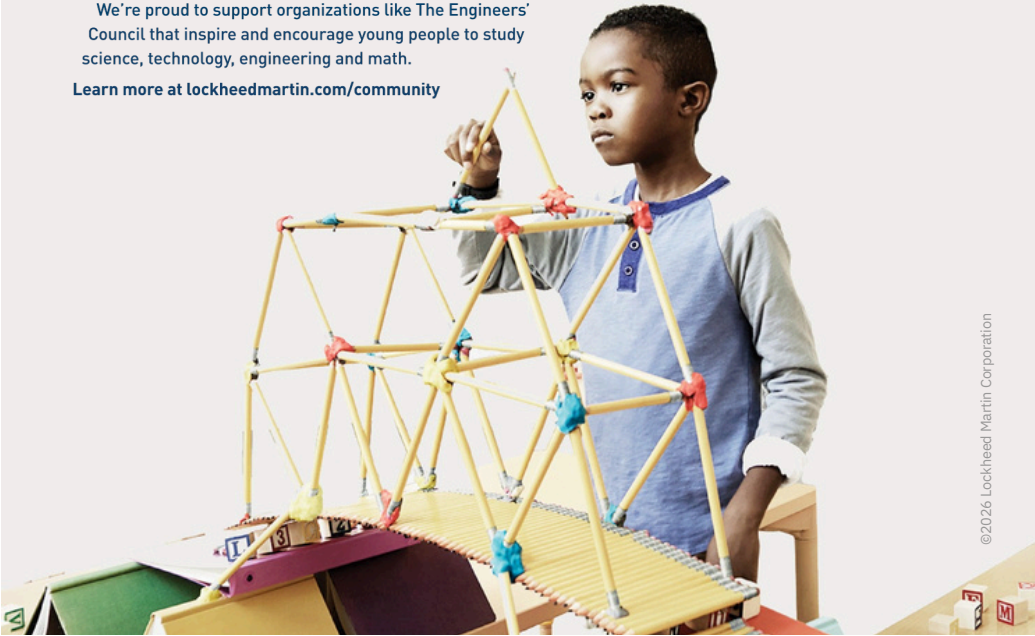


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We're proud to support organizations like The Engineers' Council that inspire and encourage young people to study science, technology, engineering and math.

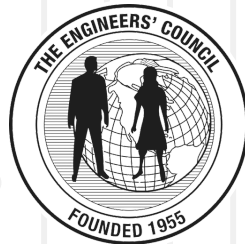
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On behalf of the BDB and The Engineer's Council,
we would like to say congratulations to all of
tonights awardees!

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A W A R D S B A N Q U E T

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