

AIAA Regional Student Conferences Webinar

October 29, 2026

Agenda

- What is an AIAA Regional Student Conference?
- Eligibility
- Paper Requirements & Timeline
- Benefits of Participating
- Past Student Conference Hosts
- Q&A



What is an AIAA Regional Student Conference?

- An opportunity for students to write a paper, present it, and publish it in a smaller conference settings with a chance to win cash prizes.
- 7 student conferences held annually: Regions I-VI (US-based) occur in March/April while Region VII (International) is every November.
- Conferences also offer an experience for students to hear from guest speakers, network and connect with other attendees, see lab facilities and corporate tours, engage in recruitment opportunities, etc.
- Anyone is welcome to attend, but there are requirements to presenting a paper.

2026 Snapshot

- 443 papers presented and 1,216 attendees across seven regions
- 112 Universities & 47 High Schools Represented
- 20 Regional Sponsors



Eligibility

- Must be an AIAA Student Member to present and author a paper.
- High School, Undergraduate & Graduate Students (Early-stage doctoral candidates also eligible).
- Must submit to the region your university is located in (Online-only programs or universities with extreme circumstances can make a request to present a different region)

Eligibility

4 Paper Categories:

- **High School Category** (includes high school individuals or team)
 - **Undergraduate Category** (up to 2 contributing undergraduate student authors max with up to 2 mentor authors max)
 - **Graduate Category** (up to 2 contributing graduate student authors max with up to 2 mentor authors max)
 - **Team Category** (3 or more contributing student authors and a maximum of 2 mentor authors; at least 50% of the team must be undergraduate, but the remaining % of the team can include high school student or graduate student member.
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- **Contributing Student Author** – A student who made a substantive intellectual or technical contribution to the work being presented.
 - **Mentor Author** – An individual whose primary role is to provide guidance, supervision, technical advice, educational support, resources, or project oversight to the contributing student authors. A mentor author generally possesses a higher level of academic standing, educational attainment, professional experience, or technical expertise than the contributing student authors.

What to Prepare Ahead of the Conferences

- ✓ Join as an [AIAA Student Member](#)
- ✓ Submit an abstract 1-2 paragraphs (1,000 words max) by the abstract deadline
- ✓ Once accepted, submit an up to 11-page manuscript by the final paper deadline that follows AIAA Manuscript Template
- ✓ Submit an AIAA copyright form if you want your paper published by AIAA
- ✓ Register for the conference
- ✓ Prepare your presentation
- ✓ Attend the conference and present (20-minute presentation with up to 10 minutes for judge/audience Q&A for a total of 30 minutes)
- ✓ HAVE FUN

Timeline

When	Deadlines
5 months out from time of conference	Call for Abstracts Opens
2 months out	Abstract Submissions Due (vary by region)
1 month out	Final paper & Copyright Form Due
2 weeks out	Conference Registration Due
Conference Date	Attend, Present & Enjoy!



Benefits of Participating

- The option to publish your paper with AIAA and receive a DOI.
- Compete for cash prizes.
- First-place undergraduate category winner gets the opportunity to present their paper at SciTech 2028
- Present your paper and receive valuable feedback from judges who are industry professionals.
- Recruitment and career development opportunities via networking, exhibitors, mentoring, lab and industry tours, and more.
- An experience you'll carry with you the rest of your career.



Upcoming Regional Student Conferences

Region VII

30 Nov-1 Dec 2026

—

Adelaide University, Australia & Online

Region I

20-21 March 2027

—

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Region II

5-6 April 2027

—

Mississippi State University

Region III

2-3 April 2027

—

Kent State University

Region IV

2-4 April 2027

—

New Mexico Tech

Region V

1-2 April 2027

—

Wichita State University

Region VI

2-4 April 2027

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University of Idaho



University of Michigan Region III Student Conference

Presented by: Kylie Bugenski, Sukhpreet Singh, Christopher Beane, Aayush Sharma

Meet our Speakers



Kylie Bugenski

25-26 VP of Events

BSE Aerospace Engineering F26



Sukhpreet Singh

25-26 President

BSE Aerospace Engineering W25

MEng Space Engineering W26



Christopher Beane

25-26 VP of Finance

BSE Aerospace Engineering W26

MSE Aerospace Engineering W27



Aayush Sharma

26-27 President

BSE Aerospace Engineering F26

Venues

- University of Michigan Ford Robotics Building – meals and stage
- University of Michigan FXB – presentations
- Get a tour of the facilities and campus



Event Timeline

- Friday
 - Informal Dinner
- Saturday
 - Breakfast and Coffee w/ Networking
 - Presentations all day
 - Coffee breaks
 - Lunch Break
 - Awards dinner
 - Speaker/Presentation
 - Catered Dinner
 - Presentation of awards



Catering & Food

- Catered Nice Award dinner – Full BBQ Dinner
- Lunch and previous dinner catered carryout – Chipotle and Potbelly's
- Breakfast was purchased from Costco



Benefits

- Network with other students and industry leaders
- Get to publish an AIAA paper and present it
- Prizes for winners
- Show off your school







Thank You



2026 AIAA Region II Conference Overview

Hosted by the University of South Carolina

The 2026 AIAA Region II Student Conference:

By the Numbers:

- **2** Days
- **400+** Attendees
- **21** Universities Represented
- **25** Industry Representatives
- **105** Student Presentations
- **5** Concurrent Sessions
- **3** Keynote Speakers



Why Attend the AIAA Region 2 Conference?

Meet the Sponsors

- Leverage branch networks for internships and jobs
- Meet the representatives in the sponsor hall

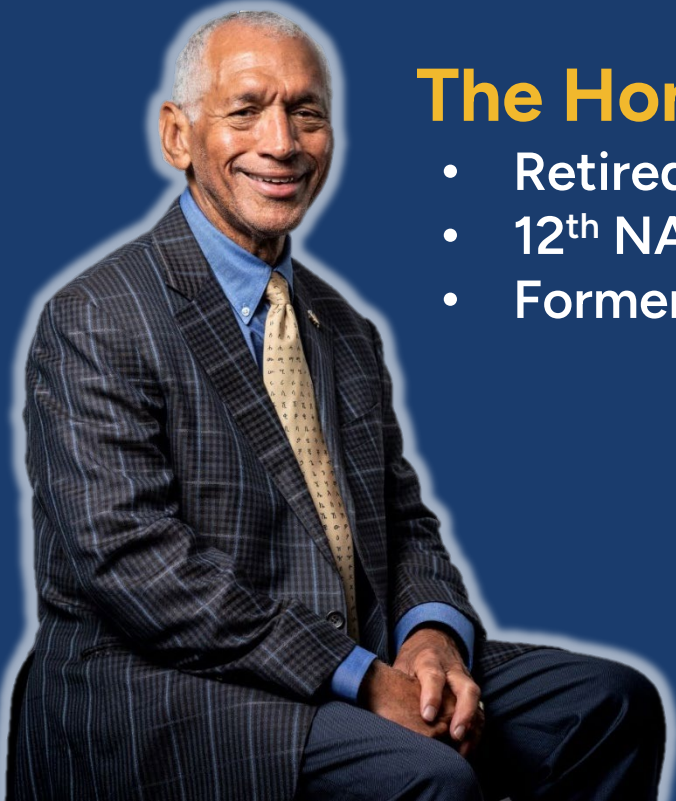
Scout for a Graduate School

- Connect with peers and ask about their experiences
- Network with potential faculty advisors
- If possible, lean on student's relationship with institution



REED
INTEGRATION, INC.

Keynote Speakers



The Honorable Charles F. Bolden Jr.

- Retired United States Marine Corp Major General
- 12th NASA Administrator (2009 – 2017)
- Former Space Shuttle Astronaut

Dr. Lee Jasper

- Systems Engineer
- Space Dynamics Laboratory
- Air Force Research Lab

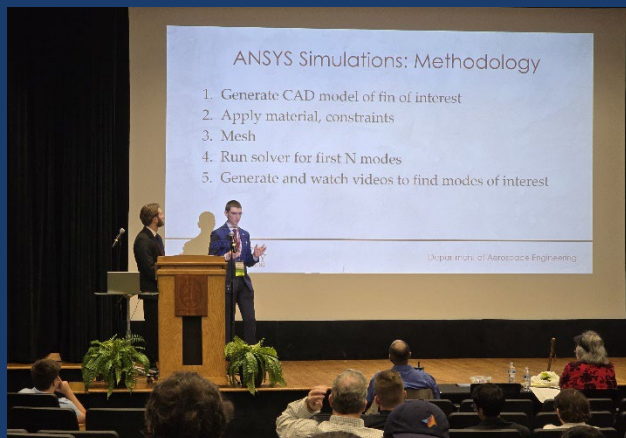


Joseph Peña

- Director & Chief Engineer
- 787 Interiors Design
- Boeing Commercial Airplanes



Student Attendees: The Timeline



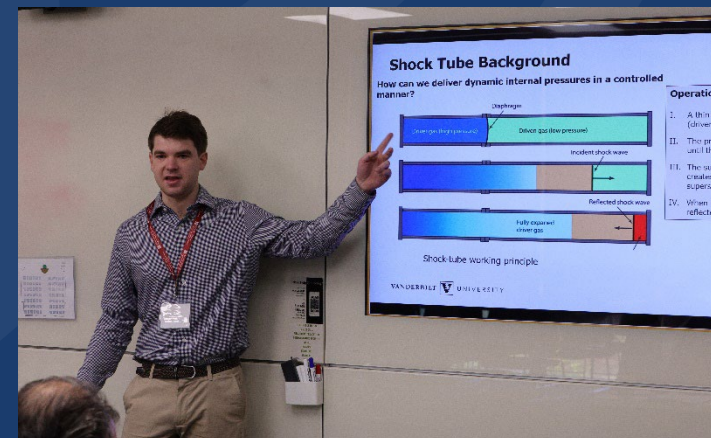
Registration Closing Soon!
Deadline Saturday, Feb. 21



AIAA
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA STUDENT BRANCH

March 26th – 27th
Columbia, SC
tiny.cc/AIAAR2

2026 Region II Student Conference
Hosted by the University of South Carolina



Of Course... There's food!



Technical Sessions

Pick your Favorite Session

- Undergraduate
- Open Topic
- Graduate
- Teams
- Outstanding Branch Activities

Special Session for 2026:

- High School



Get To Know Your Peers At Social Events

Get to know the host's region:

- Meet with a local aerospace community

Think beyond aerospace:

- Experience local attractions
- Get to know a new city

Engage in leadership opportunities:

- Connect with other AIAA chapters
- Or attend an AIAA leadership session



Win an Award!

Top 3 in Each Category:

- Undergraduate
- Open Topic
- Graduate
- Teams
- Outstanding Branch Activities

Prize Money:

- First Place: Up to \$500
- Second Place Up to \$300
- Third Place: Up to \$250



Thank You

Take Action

Faculty: Promote the conference to your department and encourage your students to participate.

Students: Consider submitting an abstract and full paper to present OR attend the conference.

Professionals: Participate as a judge (either online or in-person). Promote the conference to your organization in case they are looking to help sponsor or recruit at the event

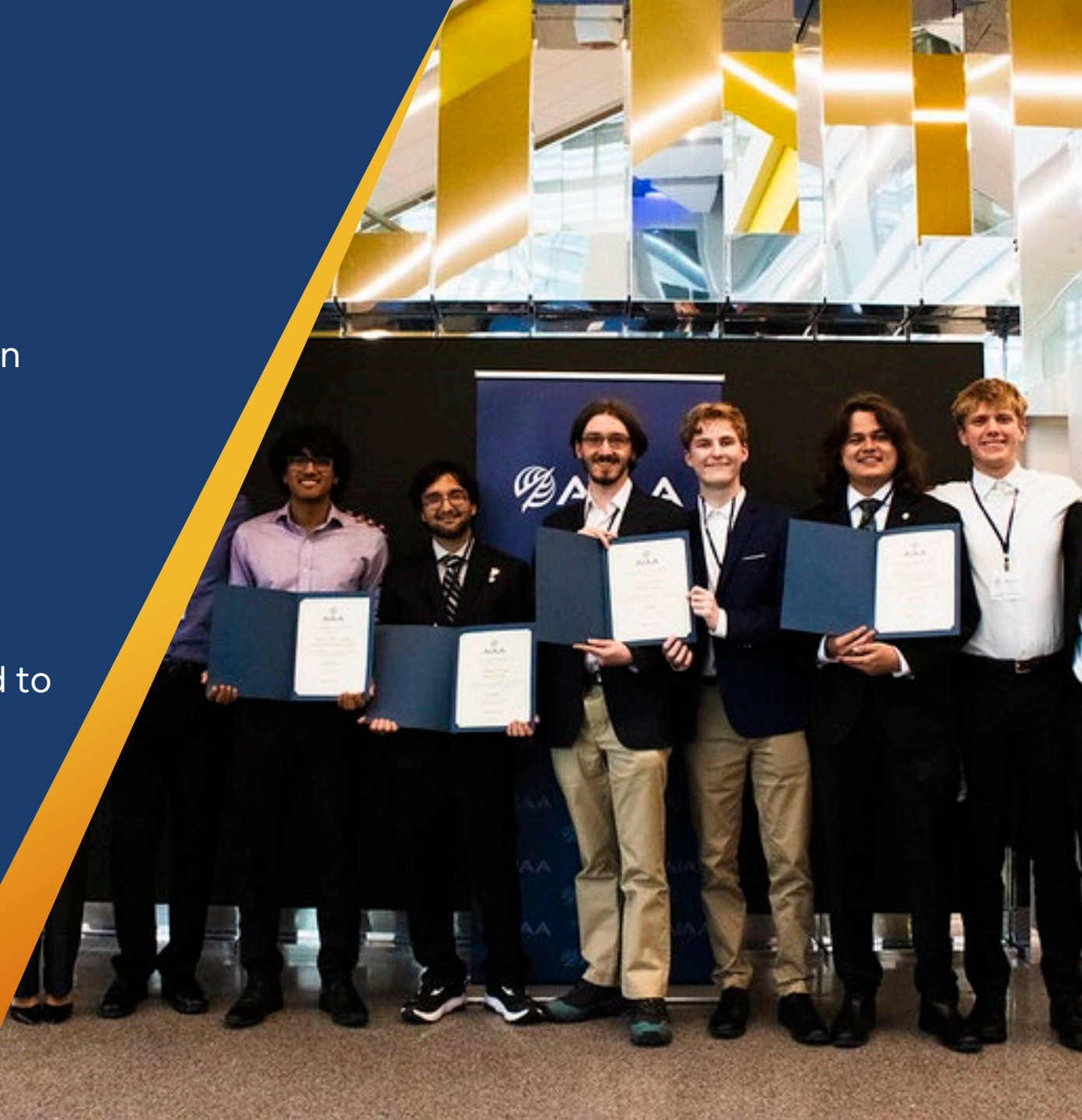


More Details

Visit the [regional student conference webpage](#) on aiaa.org.

Student Conference Guidelines can be accessed [here](#).

All student conference questions can be directed to studentprogram@aiaa.org.



Thank You