AIA Florida Aerospace & Defense Workforce/STEM Summit
Collaborating to Inspire and Build the Aerospace Workforce of Tomorrow

Harris Corporation • Palm Bay, Florida • November 15-16, 2017
Wednesday, November 15

7:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast  
Location: Harris Technology Center, Conference Center South Hallway

8:15 Call to Order by Summit Emcee – Robin Thurman, Director, Workforce and Industrial Base Development, Aerospace Industries Association (AIA)  
Location: Conference Center Main Room

8:20 Welcome – The Honorable William Capote, Mayor of the City of Palm Bay, FL

8:30 AIA Welcome – David F. Melcher, President and Chief Executive Officer, Aerospace Industries Association (AIA)

8:35 Opening Remarks and Keynote – William M. Brown, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Harris Corporation

8:50 Issues and Trends: Results of the 2016 Aerospace & Defense Workforce Survey  
Carole Rickard Hedden, Executive Editorial Director, Aviation Week Executive Intelligence

9:35 Florida Aerospace & Defense Workforce Challenges: Company Perspectives from CEOs and Executives  
Moderator: David F. Melcher, President and Chief Executive Officer, Aerospace Industries Association (AIA)  
Panelists:  
William M. Brown, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Harris Corporation  
James H. Chilton, Senior Vice President, Space & Missile Systems Division, Boeing Defense, Space & Security  
Richard G. Matthews, Vice President of Global Operations, Northrop Grumman Corporation  
Alan Pellegrini, President and Chief Executive Officer, Thales USA, Inc.

10:35 BREAK

10:45 University Leaders’ Perspectives on Addressing the 21st Century Workforce Challenges and Opportunities  
Moderator: Sophia Kim, Senior Manager, University Relations & STEM Strategy, Northrop Grumman Corporation  
Panelists:  
Dr. Cammy Abernathy, Dean, Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering, University of Florida  
Dr. P. Barry Butler, President, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University  
Dr. Michael Georgiopoulos, Dean, College of Engineering and Computer Science, University of Central Florida  
Dr. Murray Gibson, Dean, College of Engineering, Florida A&M University - Florida State University  
Dr. Dwayne McCay, President, Florida Institute of Technology  
Dr. John L. Volakis, Dean, College of Engineering & Computing, Florida International University
Wednesday, November 15 (continued)

11:45  K-12 STEM Education in Florida: How Can Industry Better Engage with School Systems?
Moderator:  Jim Shultman, Recruiting and Talent Acquisition Leader, Thales USA, Inc.
Panelists:
Terry Aunchman, Director, Pasco County Public Schools
Desmond Blackburn, Superintendent, Brevard County Public Schools
Stephanie Fitzsimmons, Leadership Development, Northrop Grumman Corporation
Debra Pace, Superintendent, Osceola County Public Schools
Larry Plank, Director of K-12 STEM Education, Hillsborough County Public Schools

12:30  Luncheon Keynote:
Florida Governor Rick Scott (invited)

1:30  Breakout Panel Sessions Round 1 (Pick One)
Expanding Diversity and Inclusion in the Aerospace and Defense Workforce
Location: Conference Center Main Room
Moderator:  Hortense Diggs, Deputy Director, Communication & Public Engagement, NASA
Panelists:
Dr. Melissa Dagley, Executive Director, Center for Initiatives in STEM (iSTEM), University of Central Florida
Monica Emery, Director of Secondary Curriculum & Instruction, Orange County Public Schools
Derek McGowan, Program Manager, Diversity, Higher Education Institutions Global Diversity & Inclusion, Lockheed Martin
Laine Powell, Executive Director, Tech Sassy Girlz
Frank Robinson, Program Director, Northeast Florida Regional STEM2 Hub

Creating a Globally Competitive Pipeline through New Age Skills Work-Based Training Programs
Location: Room 2-102 (2nd floor, North Wing)
Moderator:  Bryan Kamm, Founder, Kamm Consulting
Panelists:
Josh Dennis, Area Sales Representative - South Central Region, EOS North America
Brian Kocks, Account Manager, KUKA Robotics
Kai Schmidt, HR Director, Airbus OneWeb Satellites
Keith Simpson, National Education Director, FESTO Didactic

Supply Chain and Small Business Workforce Needs
Location: Room 1-362 (1st floor, South Wing)
Moderator:  Jenny W. Clark, Chief Executive Officer, Solvability
Panelists:
Elaine Larsen, President, Larsen Motor Sports
Janice Lindsay, Vice President, Supply Chain & Operations, Harris Corporation
Tim McFadden, Master IPC Instructor, EEI Manufacturing Services
Rick Norman, Quality and Engineering Manager, Southern Manufacturing Technologies
Wednesday, November 15 (continued)

2:20  Transition to Next Session

2:25  Breakout Panel Sessions Round 2 (Pick One)

Expanding Diversity & Inclusion in the Aerospace & Defense Workforce
Location: Conference Center Main Room

Moderator: Hortense Diggs, Deputy Director, Communication & Public Engagement, NASA
Panelists:
Dr. Melissa Dagley, Executive Director, Center for Initiatives in STEM (iSTEM), University of Central Florida
Monica Emery, Director of Secondary Curriculum & Instruction, Orange County Public Schools
Derek McGowan, Program Manager, Diversity, Higher Education Institutions Global Diversity & Inclusion, Lockheed Martin
Laine Powell, Executive Director, Tech Sassy Girlz
Frank Robinson, Program Director, Northeast Florida Regional STEM² Hub

Creating a Globally Competitive Pipeline through New Age Skills Work-Based Training Programs
Location: Room 2-102 (2nd floor, North Wing)

Moderator: Bryan Kamm, Founder, Kamm Consulting
Panelists:
Josh Dennis, Area Sales Representative - South Central Region, EOS North America
Brian Kocks, Account Manager, KUKA Robotics
Kai Schmidt, HR Director, Airbus OneWeb Satellites
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Supply Chain and Small Business Workforce Needs
Location: Room 1-362 (1st floor, South Wing)

Moderator: Jenny W. Clark, Chief Executive Officer, Solvability
Panelists:
Elaine Larsen, President, Larsen Motor Sports
Janice Lindsay, Vice President, Supply Chain & Operations, Harris Corporation
Tim McFadden, Master IPC Instructor, EEI Manufacturing Services
Rick Norman, Quality and Engineering Manager, Southern Manufacturing Technologies

3:15  BREAK | Return to Main Conference Room
Wednesday, November 15 (continued)

3:30  Deep Dive: How Do Florida STEM Outreach Programs Engage Young Students?
Moderator: Ed Schons, President, Florida High Tech Corridor
Panelists:
Robert Copeland, Executive Director, Northeast Florida Regional STEM2 Hub
Dan Mantz, Chief Executive Officer, REC Foundation (VEX Robotics)
Jeffrey Pridmore, President, STEM Alliance of Central Florida
Roseann Stevens, Vice President, Field Operations, FIRST Robotics

4:30  Closing: Final Words from a Workforce “Ecosystem”
Moderator: Marc Siciliano, Director, National STEM School Design
Panelists:
Steven Botwinik, Director, Fire Control Advanced Programs, Lockheed Martin
Shawna Grant, STEM parent, Coordinator, Volunteer Services, City Rescue Mission
Emory Mongbeh, Vice President, SAE AERO Club, College of Engineering & Computing, Florida International University
Dr. Ian Neuhard, Associate Provost, Florida State College
Ross Niebergall, Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, Harris Corporation

5:30 – 7:00  Rockwell Collins’ Networking Reception and Student Program Demos
Location: Harris Technology Center Breezeway

Team America Rocketry Challenge (TARC)
• Bok Flying Knights, Bok Academy, Lake Wales, FL

FIRST Robotics Competition
• Team Voltage 386, Melbourne High School, Melbourne, FL

“Engineers on Wheels” Expo Van
• Hands on Engineering Activities for K-12 Students
  Chris Lara, President, SAE AERO Club, College of Engineering & Computing, Florida International University, Miami, FL

UAS Educational Command and Control (C2) Van
School District UAS Support Van
• Fully Functional Multi-Platform Command and Control (C2) Planning Station operated by high-school students in support of educational and real-world flight operations and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University’s Concurrent Enrollment program in collaboration with Industry partner FlyMotion
  Terry Aunchman, Director - Career and Technical Education, Pasco County District Schools, Florida
  Brian M. Sawyer, Aviation Academy Manager, Career and Technical Education, Pasco County District Schools
Thursday, November 16

7:30  Continental Breakfast  
Location: Harris Technology Center, Conference Center South Hallway

8:20  Call to Order by Summit Emcee – Robin Thurman, Director, Workforce & Industrial Base Development, Aerospace Industries Association (AIA)  
Location: Conference Center Main Room

8:30  Welcome and Opening Remarks – Winston Scott, Senior Advisor, Florida Institute of Technology; former NASA astronaut

8:45  Keynote – Robert M. Lightfoot, Jr., Administrator (Acting), NASA Headquarters

9:15  Florida Legislative Priorities in STEM Education and Workforce Development for the Next State Legislative Session  
Moderator: Rick Kendust, Manager, State and Local Affairs, Northrop Grumman Corporation  
Panelists: Michelle Dennard, President and Chief Executive Officer, CareerSource Florida, Inc.  
Dale Ketcham, Chief of Strategic Alliances, Space Florida  
Frank Kinney, Vice President, Research & Government Relations, Florida Institute of Technology  
Chris Sprowls, Florida State Representative of District 65 (telecon)

10:15  Breakout Discussions: Small Group Action Planning and Talent Pipeline Goal Setting  
Moderator: Sandra Guerra, Strategic HR Business Partner, Thales USA, Inc.

12:00  Lunch and Report from Breakout Groups  
Moderator: Peter Larson, Senior Manager, Boeing

12:30  Call to Action: Next Steps and Commitments  
Moderator: Robin Thurman, Director, Workforce and Industrial Base Development, Aerospace Industries Association (AIA)

1:00  Company Tours (Registration Required. Additional Information on Page 6)  
Harris Corporation, Northrop Grumman Corporation, Rockwell Collins, Thales USA, Inc.

4:00 – 6:00  Closing Reception and Tour sponsored by Larsen Motor Sports, Palm Bay, FL

Larsen Motorsports is an award-winning innovator in the jet racing space, housed on Florida Tech’s campus. The company is also a proven leader in community outreach, STEM advocacy, and providing unique and valuable hands-on internship experiences to Florida Tech’s college students. Larsen Motor Sports, 2495 Palm Bay Road, NE Palm Bay, FL 32905
Company Tours - Thursday, November 16

Harris Corporation - theHub and User Experience Center (UXC) Tour
Harris Technology Center, 1395 Troutman Blvd NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905

Tour Times: 1:00-2:00 • 2:30-3:30

theHub is a truly unique area designed for Harris employees to unleash creativity, foster interdisciplinary collaboration and accelerate the transition of ideas into valuable innovation. Built with state-of-the-art technology, artistic furniture and plenty of writable surfaces, theHub has become one of the most popular spots in the new Harris Technology Center. The eye-catching User Experience Center (UXC) features both a refined presentation space and a dynamic, hi-tech, design space. Divided by an impressive glass wall, the multipurpose room was designed for everything from small team meetings to polished customer presentations.

Harris Corporation - Global Innovation Center Tour
Harris Corporation, Building B, 1025 W NASA Blvd, Melbourne, FL 32919

Tour Times: 1:00-2:00 • 2:30-3:30

A highlight of the Global Innovation Center is the Experience Center. Guests are introduced to the Harris technologies that connect, inform and protect. Surround yourself in 4,400 square feet of exhibits, including nine digital, interactive experiences. Explore the mission-critical innovations relied upon from ocean to orbit and everywhere in between.

Thales USA, Inc. - InFlyt Experience
Thales USA, Inc., 1110 W Hibiscus Blvd, Melbourne, FL 32901

Tour Times: 1:00-2:00 • 2:30-3:30

The leading airlines in the world rely on Thales InFlyt Experience to enhance the travel journey and to create engaging and personalized experiences for their passengers. Guests will tour our new state-of-the-art, open concept facility that was purposefully designed to promote innovation, collaboration and a better quality of life in the workplace. You will learn what connected travel means for us and how we design and build the systems that make tomorrow possible today.

Rockwell Collins Tour
Rockwell Collins, Building 308, 1100 West Hibiscus Blvd, Melbourne, FL 32901

Tour Time: 1:00-3:00

Rockwell Collins invites you to visit our Melbourne FL, facility to learn about our industry and enjoy a tour of our manufacturing and engineering capabilities. Rockwell Collins is a leader in the Commercial and Military avionics business. Our Melbourne facility is considered a Center of Excellence for the design, development and manufacturing of Communication, Navigation and Surveillance products for our Commercial Business. During the tour you will visit the following areas: 1. Manufacturing & Production: Rockwell Collins is excited to offer a tour to visit the first-in-its-class fully automated avionic “Streamline” production line. The Streamline process includes a Surface Mount technology Area, Automated Conformal Process machine, a 3D Automatic Optical Inspection system and dual sided In-circuit Test Technology. You will have the opportunity to see how all this state-of-the-art, build and inspection equipment is connected through conveyors to present an hand-off zero variability process. 2. Aircraft Avionics Integration Facility & Environmental Labs Rockwell Collins’ avionics products form part of complex and highly interactive aircraft systems and it is important that these products function correctly in the various aircraft platforms. To ensure correct functionality and ‘robustness’ after delivery, Rockwell Collins has developed an aircraft systems integration facility which can be configured to represent various aircraft architectures. Rockwell Collins will be very pleased to demonstrate the facility and provide an overview about the test methodologies employed to support its quality commitment to its customers. Guests will also have an opportunity to visit our Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) and Environmental labs which are integral to the rigorous certification testing that Rockwell Collins performs on behalf of its customers and aviation authorities, such as the FAA, to ensure flight safety and operational performance.

Northrop Grumman Corporation Tour
Northrop Grumman Corporation, Building 221, 2000 W NASA Blvd, Melbourne, FL 32901

Tour Time: 2:30-3:30

Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems (NGAS) invites you to visit our Manned Aircraft Design Center of Excellence to learn about our company and our industry. Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems is a premier provider of military aircraft, autonomous and space systems and next-generation solutions to assist our customers worldwide, preserve freedom and advance human discovery. During the tour, guests will get a windshield tour of the site and visit a systems integration lab and a fabrication lab.
William M. (Bill) Brown
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Harris Corporation

William M. (Bill) Brown is chairman, president and chief executive officer of Harris Corporation (NYSE:HRS). Harris is a leading global provider of communications and information technology products, software, systems and services to government, defense and commercial markets. The company has more than 17,000 employees who serve customers in more than 100 countries. Brown was appointed president and chief executive officer in November 2011 and elected chairman of the board in April 2014.

Prior to joining Harris, Mr. Brown was a senior vice president, Corporate Strategy and Development of United Technologies Corporation (UTC). Earlier, he served five years as president of UTC’s fire and security division. In all, Mr. Brown spent 14 years with UTC, holding U.S. and international roles at various divisions, including Carrier Corporation’s Asia Pacific operations and the Carrier Transicold division. Before joining UTC in 1997, he worked for McKinsey & Company as a senior engagement manager. He began his career as a project engineer at Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.

Mr. Brown serves on the board of directors for the Celanese Corporation, the board of the Fire Department of New York City Foundation, the council of trustees for the Association of the United States Army and the board of trustees of the Florida Institute of Technology. He is also a member of the Aerospace Industries Association Executive Committee. He received his bachelor of science and master of science degrees in mechanical engineering from Villanova University and a master’s of business administration from the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School.

Alan Pellegrini
President and Chief Executive Officer, Thales USA, Inc.

Alan Pellegrini is CEO of Thales USA, Inc. As the top executive in the United States, Mr. Pellegrini leads all country business operations for each of the company’s five market segments – aerospace, defense, security, space and transportation.

With an aggressive strategy for growth in the United States, Mr. Pellegrini is shaping new approaches for business innovation and entrepreneurship alongside a smart acquisition strategy. In 2015, he oversaw the launch of Thales xPlor – a new approach to innovation and entrepreneurship which leverages engagement with academic and start-up communities seeking synergistic relationships. He also drives Thales’ United States business acquisition strategy. In 2014, he supported the successful acquisition of LiveTV – an inflight connectivity solutions provider – from JetBlue and in 2015 the acquisition of Vormetric – a cybersecurity encryption firm – with the deal’s closing slated for early-2016. His vision for the United States has ensured growth for Thales and his commitment to continued double digit growth is strengthening the company’s future.

Mr. Pellegrini is a 2016 inductee for the Wash100 — the annual selection of the most influential leaders in government contracting by Executive Mosaic. Prior to this appointment in 2013, Mr. Pellegrini successfully led the company’s in-flight entertainment and connectivity business – Thales InFlyt Experience – to a position of sustained and record growth. Before breaking new ground in the areas of global connectivity and media for Thales when he first joined in 2006, Mr. Pellegrini served as the CEO of Integrated Media Solutions, Inc. (IMS) This role was preceded by his position with Panasonic where he held the positions of President, Panasonic Transportation Systems Company, and Senior Vice President, Panasonic Avionics Company.

Mr. Pellegrini has also served in several other executive roles including President and COO of Tenzing Communications (now OnAir Inc.), Vice President Marketing and Sales with Rockwell Collins, and Vice President Marketing and Sales at Hughes Avicom. While at Hughes, he led the initiative which resulted in the first-ever live satellite TV broadcast on a commercial flight.

In addition to his operational leadership roles, Mr. Pellegrini has served as a Board Director with two technology firms. He holds a Master of Business Administration degree from the USC Marshall School of Business, a Master of Science degree in Engineering from California State University, Northridge, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Mathematics from UCLA.
James H. Chilton
Senior Vice President, Space & Missile Systems Division, Boeing Defense, Space & Security

Jim Chilton is senior vice president of the Space and Missile Systems division of Boeing Defense, Space & Security (BDS). Chilton was appointed to this role in July 2017 as BDS announced a new operating structure to sharpen focus on key markets and move faster to meet customers’ needs. The Space and Missile Systems portfolio includes the International Space Station; government and commercial satellite systems; a range of missile defense and strategic deterrence systems including Ground-based Midcourse Defense, Missile Defense National Team, and the Minuteman Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) System; and a variety of weapons programs for U.S. and allied military customers.

From October 2016 to the July 2017 restructuring of Boeing’s space and defense business, Chilton led Network & Space Systems (N&SS), which included much of the current Space and Missile Systems portfolio. Prior to that role, starting in 2013, he was vice president and general manager of Strategic Missile & Defense Systems within N&SS. Previously, Chilton served as vice president and program manager for Exploration Launch Systems and led Space Launch System (SLS), Boeing’s heavy lift launch vehicle program. Before SLS, Chilton served as program manager for the Checkout, Assembly and Payload Processing Services (CAPPs) contract at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center. He led final assembly and testing of space shuttle and expendable launch vehicle payloads, including hardware destined for the International Space Station.

Chilton began his career with Boeing in 1984 as a turbo machinery development engineer at the Rocketdyne division in Canoga Park, Calif. He went on to hold a number of roles in engine test and launch operations.

Chilton has served on many boards, including the board of directors for the National Children’s Advocacy Center and the International Astronautical Federation industry relations committee.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from Washington State University and a master’s degree from the Florida Institute of Technology. He also completed the systems acquisition course for general and flag officers at Defense Acquisition University and is a graduate of Harvard Business School’s advanced management program.

Richard G. Matthews
Vice President of Global Operations, Northrop Grumman Corporation

Richard (“Rick”) Matthews is vice president of Global Operations and a senior executive at the Manned Aircraft Design Center of Excellence (CoE), located in Melbourne, Fla. Northrop Grumman’s Aerospace Systems sector is a premier provider of military aircraft, autonomous and space systems and next-generation solutions to assist customers worldwide, preserve freedom and advance human discovery.

As the Global Operations representative and Global Supply Chain program manager lead for Aerospace Systems’ Military Surveillance and Targeting division, Matthews provides expertise and support to every phase of weapon system management, from proposal through lifecycle support, across a wide range of systems operating worldwide. Matthews is also the company’s lead executive for government relations, business development and civic affairs across Florida. Most recently, he was the leader of the Manned Aircraft Design CoE, where he was responsible for developing the Center’s capacity, capability and culture to meet business objectives and the needs of customers around the globe.

Matthews joined Northrop Grumman in June 2007 following a distinguished career in the U.S. Air Force. He led major weapon system programs, including the B-2 Stealth Bomber, and has an extensive background in leading large acquisition management functions in addition to major wholesale and retail logistics organizations.

Matthews earned a bachelor’s degree in marketing management from Virginia Tech, a Master of Business Administration from Golden Gate University and a Master of Science in national resource strategy from the National Defense University. He also completed Advanced and Executive Program Manager courses at Defense Systems Management College and is a graduate of the Executive Management Program at Penn State University.
Robert Lightfoot is NASA's Acting Administrator, a role he added January 20 in addition to his permanent position for the last five years as NASA's Associate Administrator, the agency’s highest-ranking civil servant position.

Lightfoot actually is a rocket scientist. He began his NASA career 28 years ago as a space shuttle main engine test engineer at Marshall Space Flight Center in 1989. He spent his early career in testing and propulsion at Marshall and later at Stennis Space Center. Following the loss of Columbia, he spent two years at NASA Headquarters for return to flight activities and initial transition and retirement efforts for space shuttle infrastructure.

He then returned to Marshall where he spent the next seven years in various leadership roles culminating as director of one of NASA’s largest field centers, which plays a critical role in NASA’s space operations, exploration and science missions.

Lightfoot began his aerospace journey with a mechanical engineering degree from the University of Alabama, where he later served on the Mechanical Engineering Advisory Board. He also is a Hall of Famer, having been inducted into the State of Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame.

Among the numerous awards for his work, he has been recognized three times with the Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Executives – the highest honor attainable for federal government work. He has also received the Silver Snoopy award given personally by the astronaut office to those who have enhanced flight safety and mission success.

David F. Melcher is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA), an education and advocacy organization representing over 300 companies in the Aerospace and Defense industry. As AIA President and CEO, Melcher develops the strategy for the association and works with member CEOs to advocate for the industry. He also chairs an international organization that develops standards and regulations necessary for the safety and security of air transport worldwide. In January 2016, Melcher was appointed to FAA’s NextGen Advisory Committee (NAC), providing advice on policy-level issues for the nation’s aviation modernization.

Melcher joined AIA from Exelis Inc., where he served as Chief Executive Officer and President of a $5+ billion revenue company that was spun off from ITT Corporation in 2011, and ultimately merged with Harris Corporation in 2015. He has extensive program management, strategy development and finance experience, and has worked closely with key leadership within the aerospace and defense industry, Department of Defense, White House, and Congress.

Lieutenant General (Ret.) Melcher joined ITT Corporation in August 2008 after a successful 32 year career in the United States Army. His Army career highlights include battalion and brigade command in Infantry and Armored divisions, and high-level military leadership and staff positions. As a general officer, he served in the Pentagon as the Army’s Military Deputy for Budget, and Deputy Chief of Staff for Programs (G8). He also served as Commanding General of the Corps of Engineers – Southwestern Division in Dallas.

Melcher holds a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and two masters’ degrees, one in business administration from Harvard University and another in public administration from Shippensburg University. He is a registered professional engineer in New Hampshire, and a former White House Fellow who served as the Executive Assistant for the Director, Office of Management and Budget in the White House.

He serves on the board of directors of CR BARD Corporation and is a member of the Audit, Finance, and Compensation and Personnel Committees. As the Exelis CEO, he founded the Exelis Action Corps, a philanthropic and community service organization focused on Veterans causes. His is a recipient of the Army’s Distinguished Service Medal; and in October 2014, he received the Association of the U.S. Army John W. Dixon award for contributions to the defense industry.
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2017 Florida Aerospace & Defense Workforce Summit

Dr. Cammy Abernathy, panelist, received her S.B. degree in materials science and engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1980, and her M.S. and PhD degrees in materials science and engineering from Stanford University in 1982 and 1985 respectively. She joined the University of Florida’s Department of Materials Science and Engineering as a professor in 1993. In 2004 she became the College’s Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and in July 2009 was appointed Dean of the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering. Dr. Abernathy’s research interests are in synthesis of thin-film electronic materials and devices using metal organic chemical vapor deposition and molecular beam epitaxy.

Terry Aunchman, panelist, is the Director of Career and Technical Education (CTE) for Pasco County Schools. He has been employed with Pasco County Schools for over 20 years; Terry began his career teaching Business Education to secondary and adult students. He transitioned from the classroom to school based administration and served as an Assistant Principal at both Land O’ Lakes and Pasco High School. Terry joined CTE in 2009 where he worked as a Supervisor of CTE until his promotion in October 2014. In his current role he is dedicated to ensuring that students are held accountable for acquiring essential knowledge and skills critical to their future success. In addition, Terry is committed to aligning educational programs with regional workforce and economic development strategies. He received a Bachelor in Science from Castleton University and a Masters from Saint Leo University.

Desmond Blackburn, panelist, is the Superintendent for the School Board of Brevard County since July 2015. His signature initiative was to fully align district resources to better support staff and students; resulting in a re-organization of priorities and personnel. He is a life-long educator. Prior to his appointment as Brevard’s chief educational leader, he served the citizens of Broward County Public Schools as a district trainer, director of school improvement, an area superintendent, and as the chief school performance & accountability officer. His first position in Broward Public Schools was a math teacher at Plantation High School where he also coached men’s basketball and track. He is an active member for CivMII and the Space Coast League of Cities. He also serves as a Board of Director and/ or committee member for United Way, CareerSource, Economic Development Council (EDC), Brevard county Sheriff’s Office Charities, March of Dimes and the Children’s Services Council. He attended the University of Florida where he was a member of Beta Eta Sigma (Black Honor Society), earning a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics. He then went on to earn a Master of Science from Nova-Southeastern and a Doctorate in Philosophy from Florida Atlantic University.

Steven Botwinik, panelist, is the Director of Advanced Programs for the Fire Control line of business in Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control. He leads a fast paced, innovative team responsible for developing advanced products and solutions in sensor systems, processing architectures, and platform survivability. He currently serves on the Lockheed Martin Intellectual Property Review Board and is the Lockheed Martin Technical Liaison to the University of Florida. He is on the Board of Directors of the STEM Alliance of Central Florida. He is the author of several Lockheed Martin patents and trade secrets. Mr. Botwinik holds a Masters of Science in Computer Information Science from Florida Institute of Technology and a Bachelors of Science in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Florida.

Dr. P. Barry Butler, panelist, is the sixth President of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Earlier, he was executive vice president and provost at the University of Iowa. He has worked as a visiting research fellow for the U.S. Navy and Sandia National Laboratories. His extensive aerospace-related instructional and research activities have included the development and analysis of occupant restraint safety systems. He has long advocated for universities to work with industry and others, and he serves on the boards of several state and national technology-based organizations committed to economic growth and the advancement of STEM education. He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in aeronautical and astronautical engineering, and his doctorate in mechanical engineering from the University of Urbana-Campaign.

The Honorable William Capote, Mayor of the City of Palm Bay, Florida, is dedicated to showcasing Palm Bay as a destination city full of endless possibilities for emerging technologies, a strong and vibrant economy and a rich environment for families and residents to enjoy. His commitment to the community is evident by countless hours of volunteer service in areas such as the Port Malabar Elementary School PTA, Odyssey Charter School, Meals on Wheels, South Brevard Pop Warner Football Board of Directors, Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce, Mid-Florida American Red Cross, the Boy Scouts of America. Mayor Capote was first elected to the Palm Bay City Council in 2008. During his first year as mayor progress towards a more vibrant economy began to be realized. In 2012 the city began construction of the new Palm Bay Parkway which was completed in 2014. New research and development is underway with the Florida Institute of Technology Research Center and most notable is the Harris Corporation’s $100-million investment in building its new Technology Center which brought more than 150 new jobs to the area.
Dr. Melissa Dagley, panelist, is the Executive Director of the Center for Initiatives in STEM (iSTEM) at the University of Central Florida. Dr. Dagley serves as PI of the NSF-funded STEP 1b program “Convincing Outstanding-Math-Potential Admits to Succeed in STEM (COMPASS)” and Director for the formerly NSF-funded “EXCEL:UCF-STEP Pathways to STEM: From Promise to Prominence”. She is Director for the Girls EXCELling in Math and Science (GEMS) and WISE@UCF industry funded women’s mentoring initiatives. In addition to guiding undergraduates towards a successful path in STEM, Dr. Dagley directs the STEM K-12 outreach and teacher training initiatives for the Colleges of Science and Engineering and Computer Science and leads a fellows program for faculty interested in STEM education and education research.

Robert Copeland, panelist, is an Electrical Engineer by academic training with a masters degree from Stanford University. The early part of his career was spent with AT&T Bell Laboratories where he designed network and terminal equipment as he moved up the ranks to R&D Department Head. He finished his AT&T career as a Vice President in the American Transtech Call Center Operations. In retirement Robert taught electronics as an adjunct at Florida State College Jacksonville and taught Advanced Placement Mathematics at Stanton College Preparatory High School. He is currently the Executive Director of the Northeast Florida Regional STEM² Hub where he is perfecting a STEM Learning Ecosystem to greatly increase the pipeline fill for STEM-capable high school and college graduates.

Dr. Melissa Dagley, panelist, is the Executive Director of the Center for Initiatives in STEM (iSTEM) at the University of Central Florida. Dr. Dagley serves as PI of the NSF-funded STEP 1b program “Convincing Outstanding-Math-Potential Admits to Succeed in STEM (COMPASS)” and Director for the formerly NSF-funded “EXCEL:UCF-STEP Pathways to STEM: From Promise to Prominence”. She is Director for the Girls EXCELling in Math and Science (GEMS) and WISE@UCF industry funded women’s mentoring initiatives. In addition to guiding undergraduates towards a successful path in STEM, Dr. Dagley directs the STEM K-12 outreach and teacher training initiatives for the Colleges of Science and Engineering and Computer Science and leads a fellows program for faculty interested in STEM education and education research.

Michelle Dennard, panelist, is president and CEO of CareerSource Florida, Inc., the nonprofit, public-private policy and investment board of business and government leaders charged with guiding workforce development for the state of Florida. She joined the organization in November 2014 and led the development of Florida’s unified plan for implementing the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the federal legislation that modernizes states’ workforce systems through a market-driven approach to better serve businesses, workers and job seekers. She engaged workforce and education partners throughout the state to develop a plan that delivers customer-driven solutions through an integrated job-driven network for the 21st century and beyond. An attorney and member of the Florida Bar, she has more than 10 years experience in workforce and economic development. Michelle serves on the Florida Chamber Foundation Board of Trustees, the Florida Higher Education Coordinating Council and the Florida Small Business Development Center Network State Advisory Board. She is a graduate of the Florida State University College of Business and earned her Juris Doctor degree from the Florida State University College of Law.

Jenny Clark, moderator, works with small businesses in federal contracting to understand their indirect costs, and how they can be more competitive and more profitable. Known as “The Oprah of Federal Contracting”, Jenny hosts the Florida GovCon Podcast, bringing topics and interviews from the federal contracting industry each week. She also hosts the Florida GovCon Summit which is in Orlando on February 28 – March 1, 2018, bringing together industry experts, small business executives, federal agency representatives and prime contractors, for match-making, education and networking.

Robert Copeland, panelist, is an Electrical Engineer by academic training with a masters degree from Stanford University. The early part of his career was spent with AT&T Bell Laboratories where he designed network and terminal equipment as he moved up the ranks to R&D Department Head. He finished his AT&T career as a Vice President in the American Transtech Call Center Operations. In retirement Robert taught electronics as an adjunct at Florida State College Jacksonville and taught Advanced Placement Mathematics at Stanton College Preparatory High School. He is currently the Executive Director of the Northeast Florida Regional STEM² Hub where he is perfecting a STEM Learning Ecosystem to greatly increase the pipeline fill for STEM-capable high school and college graduates.

Josh Dennis, panelist, is an Area Sales Representative for EOS North America and is based near Nashville, TN. He is responsible for the South Central region of the U.S. Josh has an extensive background in Machine Tools having experience in traditional subtractive methods such as CNC milling, EDM machining as well as Additive Manufacturing. Josh holds a Bachelor’s degree in Marketing from Tennessee Tech University and has applied this in his roles with customers in Aerospace, Medical and Energy verticals helping and enabling prospects and customers to adopt production methods and the implementation of Additive Manufacturing.

Hortense B. Diggs, moderator, is deputy director of the Office of Communication and Public Engagement (PX) at NASA’s John F. Kennedy Space Center in Florida. She serves as acting chief of the directorate’s Education Projects and Youth Engagement Division. She is also one of Kennedy’s two Ombudsmen. Hortense began her NASA career in 2000 as a flight assurance manager in the Expendable Launch Vehicles Safety and Flight Assurance Office at Kennedy. She was mission assurance manager for Mars Exploration Rovers Spirit and Opportunity, and the Deep Impact mission. In 2005, after serving as a special assistant to the Kennedy Space Center director, Hortense joined Kennedy’s Office of Education as teachers lead. She later served as the group’s University Affairs Officer before assuming leadership of Kennedy Education in 2010. Prior to joining NASA, Diggs worked seventeen years for the U.S. military in a variety of technical capacities. Hortense earned her Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering at Prairie View A&M University in Texas.
Monica Emery, panelist, is a graduate of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, and received her master’s degree in Educational Leadership at Stetson University. Before becoming the Director of Secondary Curriculum and Instruction for Orange County Public Schools, Monica worked diligently as a teacher, literacy coach, testing coordinator, and assistant principal. She began her educational career in New Jersey, teaching high school English to 9th grade students. After moving to Florida in 2005, she continued her work in the classroom before becoming a literacy coach and testing coordinator. These roles not only helped to fuel her passion for student learning, but also allowed her to carefully craft professional development and intervention systems to enhance the work taking place within the classrooms on campus. As an assistant principal at the secondary level, she was committed to school improvement and dedicated her time to developing the teachers on campus to meet the needs of the diverse learners within their classrooms. Now, as the Director of Secondary Curriculum and Instruction, she makes it her mission to ensure that teachers have the resources and support they need to effectively lead our students toward career and college readiness.

Stephanie Fitzsimmons, panelist, manages K-12 STEM education programs and focuses on partnerships that support diverse, sustainable programs for students and teachers. Additionally, she supports community outreach and volunteer activities through local involvement, while providing effective promotion and engagement for a variety of Northrop Grumman sites, and executive leadership. She joined the company in 2002 and has served across the Aerospace Systems sector, as well as Corporate Citizenship. She earned a bachelor’s degree in Aviation Business from Embry-Riddle, in Daytona Beach, Florida, a master’s degree in Business Administration from Embry-Riddle, in Daytona Beach, Florida, a master’s degree in Education – Mathematics from Western Governors University, in Salt Lake City, Utah, and is a Doctoral Candidate studying Curriculum and Instruction at the University of South Florida, in Tampa.

Dr. Michael Georgiopoulos, panelist, is the Dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science (CECS) at the University of Central Florida. CECS is one of the nation’s largest engineering colleges with approximately 8,500 students enrolled. Dr. Georgiopoulos became the dean in July 2013, after serving one year as interim dean. He has also served as interim assistant vice president of Research in the UCF Office of Research and Commercialization. In 1986, Dr. Georgiopoulos joined the faculty of CECS’s Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science after receiving master’s and doctoral degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Connecticut. Since then, he has served in, and has been honored for, his many roles at UCF.

Dr. Murray Gibson, panelist, was appointed Dean of the FAMU/FSU College of Engineering July 1st 2016. Previously he served five years as the Founding Dean of the Northeastern University College of Science where he developed the foundational strategic plan working hand in hand with faculty, staff, students, other deans and external stakeholders. The plan became the blueprint for the hiring of more than 40 tenured/tenure-track faculty, including 10 joint appointments with other colleges. He managed a 50% increase both in the College’s research funding and its undergraduate enrollment, the latter simultaneous with a substantial improvement in the quality of incoming undergraduates (an increase of 100 SAT points in five years).

Shawna Grant, panelist, works as Coordinator of Volunteer Services at The City Rescue Mission in Jacksonville Florida where she recruits, interviews, trains, and supervises planning for all volunteer services provided by the organization. Her career began in the healthcare industry over 18 years ago working in various capacities of health and human services. Shawna has a passion to serve in the community in several areas, volunteering with several non-profit agencies such as the Alzheimer’s Association, The American Cancer Society, Gateway Community Services, We Care Young Professionals, Gabriel House of Care, and is currently Member Chair for the Lions Club International (Jacksonville Beaches Chapter). In 2017, Shawna started Grant Consulting JAX, a referral consulting agency to help seniors and families of Northeast Florida when seeking retirement and memory care services. Ms. Grant is a graduate of the University of Phoenix with a bachelor’s degree in psychology, and earned a master’s from Webster University in Health Administration.

Sandra Guerra, moderator, is a Director of Human Resources at Thales, a global leader in avionics for Connectivity. In her spare time, she works as an adjunct faculty member for Webster University and Everglades University where she teaches students about organizational strategy, change, and human resources. In Sandra’s role as HR Director, she serves as a business partner to leadership and has been an integral part in facilitating large strategic initiatives. Sandra achieved a doctorate degree with distinction in Industrial Organizational Psychology from Capella University. Sandra’s academic career also includes an MBA in Management from Western International University and a Bachelor of Science degree from from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Sandra is very active in the HR community. She is the Past President for The Greater Orlando Society for Human Resource Management, a recognized SHRM Excel Platinum Chapter and spends considerable time coaching and mentoring leaders.
**Carole Rickard Hedden, moderator**, joined the Aviation Week team in 1996 to provide financial and business analysis and has held a variety of roles over the past two decades. In September 2013 she stood up Aviation Week’s new business unit, Aviation Week Executive Intelligence, to deliver custom news coverage and analysis for industry executives. She also leads Aviation Week’s annual Workforce Study, the Program Excellence initiative, and Executive Roundtables. Aviation Week’s Workforce Study serves as the industry’s single source for data about the aerospace and defense workforce and its employers to include demographics, age distribution, hiring plans, professional development and compensation. AIA is Aviation Week’s partner in this study. Prior to joining Aviation Week, Hedden worked for 20 years in the news media and as a corporate communications leader.

**Bryan Kamm, moderator,** is the founder of Kamm Consulting and has 36 years of international and domestic business experience in corporate, government and not-for-profit sectors. In 2008, Bryan launched a German Apprenticeship Program while working for a German company in the Tampa Bay area, and in 2014 founded the $2.35 M tri-county Tampa Bay Advanced Manufacturing Skills Initiative. Bryan co-authored the German Embassy White Paper, The Skills Initiative: Expanding Apprenticeship in the U.S.—lessons from the German Dual Education System, published in May 2016. Bryan holds an AA degree from BCC (now EFSC), and a Bachelor’s Degree from Florida Technological University, (now UCF), as well as a Co-Major Bachelor’s degree in International Business Management and German from FSU.

**Rick Kendust, moderator,** is the Manager of State and Local Affairs for Northrop Grumman Corporation in the Southeastern US Region. In this role, he is responsible for achieving the state, local and civil goals set forth by Northrop Grumman Corporation. Rick joined Northrop Grumman Corporation from the Florida Legislature where he served as Chief Legislative Aide to State Senator Thad Altman, Melbourne, FL., who chaired the Committee on Military & Veteran Affairs, Space and Domestic Security. He has more than 8 years of experience working in the Florida Legislature in both the House and the Senate. While serving as an aide to the Senator, He conducted policy research, drafted legislation and formulated funding request specific to the east coast of Florida. Rick earned a bachelor’s degree in business with a focus on real estate from Florida State University and has served on numerous local boards including the Melbourne Regional Chamber of Commerce of East Central Florida.

**Dale Ketcham, panelist,** currently serves as Space Florida’s Chief of Strategic Alliances. In this role, Ketcham utilizes existing and developing networks to advantage the State of Florida as the recognized leader in the civil, commercial and military space marketplace. He spent 35+ years at the Cape working with major contractors, 8(a)’s, the U.S. Congress, Enterprise Florida and the University of Central Florida. After receiving his degree in philosophy from the University of Florida, he returned to Cocoa Beach. He worked for Rockwell International in the Shuttle Program for 10 years, then spent four years as District Director for Congressman Jim Bacchus, who represented the Cape on the Space Subcommittee in the U.S. House of Representatives. He then returned to the private sector, becoming Director of Business Development for AJT & Associates, a private engineering firm working with NASA as well as the U.S. Navy and Air Force and airports around the country. Immediately prior to Space Florida, he served as Director of the Spaceport Research & Technology Institute (SRTI) at UCF and as Director of Space and Defense Programs with Enterprise Florida.

**Sophia Kim, moderator,** has worked for two US Senators and their Presidential Campaigns, Silicon Valley technology companies and currently serves as Northrop Grumman’s Senior Manager of University Relations & STEM Strategy. Sophia has broad and diverse experience, using unique and effective outreach efforts that leverages STEM initiatives, government relations, think tanks, trade associations, non-profit organizations and universities for international/domestic business development, marketing, public relations, and press/media. Sophia initiated, managed and led successful unique education initiatives from international, national to state/local programs on US competitiveness, workforce development and R&D on science, math, engineering and technology (STEM) for specific campaigns, programs and pursuits incorporating NG’s diversity & inclusion.

**Frank Kinney, panelist,** currently serves as the Chief of Staff and Vice President for Government Relations at the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) in Melbourne. Mr. Kinney has served as a registered lobbyist in Florida for more than 30 years, and leads FIT’s lobbying efforts in Tallahassee. He previously served as the Vice President for Research at FIT from 2006 to 2016. Prior to joining FIT, he served as Executive Director of the Technological Research and Development Authority, and worked for Scientific Systems Services Inc. and Southern Bell. Mr. Kinney holds an AA degree from Brevard Community College (now Eastern Florida State College) and received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Government from Florida State University.
Janice Lindsay, panelist, has 35 years of Engineering & Automation experience in Automotive, Foundry, Aerospace and General Industry. The past 22 years, focus has been concentrated on Robotics and Robotic Automation. Brian's current employer is KUKA Robotics – Shelby Twp., MI where he is responsible for Account Management in the S.E as well as oversight of the Education Segment for the company. He is celebrating his 6th year with KUKA. Prior employers were General Motors – Saginaw, MI., ABB – Auburn Hills, MI and Gudel – Ann Arbor, MI. Brian holds a B.S.E.E. degree from Oakland University – Auburn Hills, MI. In November 2014, KUKA Robotics launched the KORE Program “KUKA Official Robotics for Education” of which Brian was instrumental in developing. The KORE program is Curriculum based and provides a Certificate of Completion to the students. To date, over 75 Education facilities throughout the US have benefited from this program producing over 130 Graduates. Brian resides in Alpharetta, Ga. Hobbies are Running and Golf.

Chris Larson, Engineer on Wheels, is a junior at Florida International University, currently earning his Bachelor’s of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering and an Aerospace Engineering certificate. He is enrolled in the university’s Honors College graduating in Spring, 2019. Chris is President of both FIU SAE AERO, the College’s aerospace engineering club, and the student chapter of the American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA). He led the design and manufacturing teams of SAE AERO and Boeing’s Bottle Rocket contest. He has been an intern at GE Aviation in Ohio and at Morrison Hershfield Architects & Engineers in South Florida. Chris has received both HENAAC Chevron Engineering and SHPE Undergraduate Scholarships. He is proficient in a variety of technical skills from certification in AutoCAD to 3D RESHAPER.

Elaine Larsen, panelist, serves as the President of Larsen Motor Sports. She has over two decades of racing experience. Finding her home behind the wheel of a jet powered dragster, she lives her life at full-throttle. STEAM ambassador, comic book creator and mentor are just a few of Elaine’s roles. Giving young ladies an opportunity to get hands-on experience in the high-performance vehicles industry, she inspires the next generation of motorsports professionals to have the Guts to go for the Glory! In 2014 Larsen Motorsports started their STEM initiative, with their facility located in the heart of the Space Coast in Palm Bay, FL everyday they work with students that have their eyes on the finish line. LMS has full fabrication capabilities, from composites, engines, fabrication to the day to day operation of a multi car turbine powered race teams, students really get the opportunity to jump right in.

Peter Larson, moderator, is a member of the Boeing Defense Space & Security engineering team. Pete provides workforce development solutions that improve skills development & planning, staffing, knowledge transfer, and predictive workforce modeling capabilities. His engineering resource responsibilities extend across new development programs such as Space Launch System, Commercial Crew, KC-46 Tanker and the Presidential Aircraft Recapitalization Program. Additionally, Pete is a founding member and current chairman of the Aerospace Industries Association’s (AIA) STEM Workforce Working Group chartered with increasing collaboration among stakeholder groups to ensure the Aerospace & Defense industry has a diverse and STEM-qualified candidate pool to meet future hiring requirements. Within his 32+ years of experience with McDonnell Douglas / Boeing, Pete has held both program and functional management positions in Engineering, Human Resources, Configuration Management, and Production Engineering. A graduate from the University of Arizona, Pete began his aerospace career in January 1985 as a software programmer on the USAF C-17 Program.

Janice Lindsay, panelist, is Vice President of Supply Chain and Operations with Harris Corporation, located in Melbourne, Florida. As the functional leader, her responsibilities include sourcing, procurement, materials management, subcontracts management, supplier performance management, manufacturing operations, logistics, and environmental health and safety. She and her team are responsible for driving year over year improvements in Harris’ quality, cost and delivery performance. Previously, Janice served as Vice President of Harris Business Excellence (HBX), where she led the organization in driving a culture of continuous improvement across all aspects of the business. She was responsible for providing overall leadership, communications strategy, training, tools and bottom-line results. Janice joined the AIA Supplier Management Council (SMC) Executive Committee one year ago.

Dan Mantz, panelist, is CEO and Chairman of the Board for the Robotics Education and Competition (REC) Foundation. He is responsible for the strategy, overall organizational structure and fiscal health of the organization. Dan is an executive leader with over 25 years of engineering experience, solving complex problems in the software, electrical, and mechanical fields. Dan was previously President of Rack Solutions and also spent 19 years in industrial robotics at FANUC Robotics. Dan appreciates the value the robotics experience brings to the education community and to students worldwide. He embraced the world of educational and competitive robotics, mentoring teams and engaging in all aspects of the experience. He understands firsthand that the skills gained through robotics will have a positive and lasting impact on a student’s educational experience and more importantly throughout their lifetime. A native of Seven Valleys, Pennsylvania, Dan is an alumus of Kettering University in Flint, MI and began his career at General Motors as part of the Kettering co-op program.

Pete began his aerospace career in January 1985 as a software programmer on the USAF C-17 Program.
Dr. Dwayne McCay, panelist, became president and CEO of the Florida Institute of Technology in 2016 where he holds a joint appointment as professor in Physics and Space Sciences and Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. Dr. McCay originally joined Florida Tech leadership in 2003 from the University of Tennessee System where he served as vice president for Research and Information Technology. Dr. McCay is a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors with 16 patents (two of which have resulted in spin-off companies) and has over 100 technical publications to his credit including two books. He served in the private sector and in several capacities at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center including as chief of propulsion in the Structures and Propulsion Laboratory. Dr. McCay earned a Ph.D. in engineering and mathematics from Auburn University.

Tim McFadden, panelist, with over 30 years in the electronics industry, is accredited by the IPC as a Master Trainer for IPC-A-610, J-STD-001 (FS), IPC7711/7721 and IPC/WHMA-A-620. His background in prototypes, production, design and process engineering brings a wealth of comprehensive manufacturing knowledge to EEI’s Technical Training Center. His background includes overseeing manufacturing and engineering as the Manufacturing Operations Manager for a custom design and manufacturing CEM. Previously, he was employed by a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and established a state licensed Basic Electronic Assembly school in Florida based on IPC-A-610 and J-STD-001 requirements. The school assisted TANF individuals who successfully completed the curriculum in receiving jobs with local electronic companies.

Derek McGowan, panelist, is the Program Manager, Higher Education Institutions Global Diversity & Inclusion for Lockheed Martin where he began in 2001. He manages the multi-million dollar portfolio for Historically Black Colleges and Minority Serving Institutions (HBCUs) and drives the implementation of diversity and inclusion efforts in STEM programs, relationship building, and student development and recruiting at Minority Serving Institutions. His work focuses on enhancing Lockheed Martin’s diversity pipeline of technical talent. Previously, Derek was the LM Campus Relations Manager. He has worked in the recruiting profession for more than 31 years, and has received numerous awards in his field. He received an undergraduate degree from St. Leo University and is completing a dual Master’s degree in HR Management and Training and Development from Webster University.

Emory Mongbeh, panelist, is a senior at Florida International University, currently earning his Bachelor’s of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering and an Aerospace Engineering certificate. He anticipates graduation in the Fall of 2018. Emory is the Vice President of both FIU SAE AERO, the College’s aerospace engineering club, and the student chapter of the American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA). He is responsible for developing Engineers on Wheels trips at South Florida schools, as well as maintaining club and chapter relations with professional AIAA chapters. He has been interested in the field of aviation from an early age. In high school, he enrolled in George T. Baker Aviation School, where he received his FAA Powerplant Certification. In college, he worked on a three-month internship with Boeing in South Carolina as a Design Engineer. Following graduation, Emory plans to pursue a full-time position in the aerospace field.

Dr. Ian Neuhard, panelist, currently serves as the Associate Provost for Liberal Arts and Sciences at Florida State College at Jacksonville—one of the top-ten associate degree producing colleges in the United States. Dr. Neuhard has thirty years of experience as an educator and administrator including service to public schools, public community colleges, private universities, and the Florida Department of Education. Prior to assuming his duties at FSCJ, Dr. Neuhard was the founding Dean for Baccalaureate Programs at Indian River State College. Dr. Neuhard also served as the Director of Academic Programs and Teacher Preparation for the Florida Department of Education’s Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Education. In that role, he developed policy recommendations for Florida’s community college system, and he provided statewide oversight for the implementation of Educator Preparation Institutes and community college baccalaureate degree programs.

Ross Niebergall, panelist, is Vice President and Chief Technology Officer of Harris Corporation. He leads the company’s global engineering function and partners with segment leadership to manage the cost, execution and quality of programs. In addition, he plans, prioritizes and oversees IRAD projects, implements best-in-class process standards, drives improvements in quality and efficiency, and leads technology talent development efforts. Prior to joining Harris in 2017, Niebergall served as vice president, deputy for development programs, engineering and technology, for Raytheon’s Intelligence, Information and Services unit. In this role, he supported the development of a diverse portfolio spanning both commercial and defense markets, including cybersecurity, command and control systems, sensors and imaging, and mission support products.
Rick Norman, panelist, is the Quality and Engineering Manager at Southern Manufacturing Technologies (SMT) in Tampa, Florida. SMT, a Florida Sterling Award winner and an industry leader, provides premium manufacturing services of precision machined components for aircraft, missile and satellite applications. SMT has components on the International Space Station and the Mars Rover, as well as commercial and military aircraft. A 35-year veteran in manufacturing, Rick has a wide range of leadership experience in design for manufacturability with LEAN implementation. In addition to his operations leadership, Rick plays an active role in the manufacturing community in Tampa Bay. He is the chairman of the Pinellas Technical College advisory board for the Machining Technology Program and also serves as a member of the Pinellas Technical College Apprentice Program advisory board. He is an active member of Florida’s Suncoast chapter of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers and the Florida West Coast National Tool Manufactures Association. Rick is a graduate of the General Electric Apprentice Program as a Tool and Instrument Maker and completed GE’s Intensive Leadership Development Program.

Debra Pace, panelist, assumed the position of Superintendent of the Osceola School District in March 2016. Dr. Pace brings to the position an extensive background in both instructional and operational leadership, as she served as Principal for Poinciana and Harmony High Schools and as Deputy Superintendent for Secondary in the Osceola School District from 2003 to 2011. She has held the position of Associate Superintendent for Human Resources Services Division for Brevard Public Schools since 2011. Dr. Pace earned her bachelor’s degree in Foreign Language-International Trade from Auburn University, and both a master’s degree in English Education and a Doctorate of Education from the University of Central Florida.

Larry Plank, panelist, is the Director of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education for Hillsborough County Public Schools, in Tampa, FL, the 8th largest school district in the United States. Mr. Plank began his post-secondary education at Michigan State University, earned a Bachelor’s degree in Biological Sciences from Florida State University in 1997, and Master’s (Biological Sciences) and Specialist’s degrees (Educational Leadership) from the University of South Florida in 2000 and 2006, respectively. Mr. Plank’s most recent work with the Florida Department of Education is focused upon the adoption of new state standards for K-12 science and developing the next generation of science assessments. Mr. Plank has been published in peer-reviewed journals and has presented at a multitude of professional conferences.

Laine Powell, panelist, is the Founder and Executive Director of Collegiate Pathways, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to changing the lives of under-represented girls in middle and high school to engage in STEM-related topics and inspire their career interests. Its signature program, affectionately known as Tech Sassy Girlz, develops the next generation of STEM-savvy, college-bound girls through college preparation, career readiness and mentoring. Powell created the organization to address the critical shortage of women and minorities being represented in high-tech STEM careers. She firmly believes that leveraging technology is an opportunity for girls to be content creators and makers. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Florida, a Master of Education degree in Counselor Education and College Student Personnel from Pennsylvania State University and a Master of Science in Management in Human Resources from the University of Central Florida.

Jeffrey Pridmore, panelist, is the President of the STEM Alliance of Central Florida, a non-profit industry/education partnership launched to strengthen math and science education in Central Florida. He is also the Director of Research and Industrial programs at UCF’s College of Engineering and Computer Science, where he is responsible for growing its research portfolio and establishing strategic industry partnerships. company. Mr. Pridmore previously spent the majority of his career at Lockheed Martin as an Engineering Vice President and Director for a number of Research and Development organizations across the Corporation. He holds a Bachelor of Sciences degree in Electrical Engineering from Bucknell University and a Masters of Science in Systems Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania.

Frank Robinson, panelist, currently serves as Program Manager for the STEM2 HUB, serving seven counties of Northeast Florida to infuse learning into after-school programming for students. As the former Deputy Director of Safety and Mission Assurance for NASA Glenn Research Center (GRC), Mr. Robinson assisted the Director in providing reliability, risk management, quality assurance, and safety hazard analysis services to programs. He also served as a member of the GRC Center Director’s Senior Management Team, including participation on the Center’s Executive Councils and representing GRC at Agency and/or International meetings. He is currently a Board member for the Boys and Girls Club of North Florida St. Augustine and Knots-4-Kids.
Jim Shultman, moderator, is the National Recruiting Operations Manager for Thales based in Orlando, FL. He joined Thales in 2015 after spending over ten years with a technical search firm providing optimal workforce solutions to highly regulated industries. He’s a recruiting leader with a positive and inclusive approach to building and engaging high quality Recruiting Teams in competitive markets; He is a trusted adviser to key stakeholders, executive teams, and colleagues to provide key market intelligence on how to find, attract, and hire top talent.

Marc Siciliano, panelist, is the Director of STEM Learning at the Teaching Institute for Excellence in STEM since 2008. He leads the organization’s focus on STEM teaching and learning for schools and districts throughout the country. He has managed several state and district-wide STEM initiatives in GA, MD, NC, NY, OK, and OH. Additionally, Marc currently co-leads technical assistance for 56 communities that are part of the national STEM Learning Ecosystem initiative funded by the STEM Funders Network. He has been involved in education for 20 years as a teacher, curriculum developer, administrator, and consultant. He holds a BA in biology from North Park University and MA in Education Leadership from Northeastern IL University.

Ed Schons, moderator, is the President for the Florida High Tech Corridor Council. Ed leads this unique economic development initiative anchored by UCF, the University of South Florida and the University of Florida with a mission to grow the tech industry and innovation through partnerships that support research, marketing, workforce and entrepreneurship. He has been directly involved with The Corridor from its inception and remained involved through efforts to attract, retain and grow high tech, high-wage industry and the workforce to support it. He also serves as the Assistant Vice President for University Relations and Director of University Economic Development at the University of Central Florida (UCF). Ed maintains key partnerships and relationships with economic development organizations in The Corridor and throughout the state of Florida. Ed also received the prestigious “Eunice Sullivan Economic Development Professional Award” from the Florida Economic Development Council for Outstanding Dedication and Commitment to the Economic Development Profession.

Winston Scott, moderator, is the Senior Advisor to the President of the Florida Institute of Technology. Previously, he served as the Senior Vice President for External Relations and Economic Development at FIT. He also served as the Vice President and Deputy General Manager of the Engineering and Science Contract Group for Jacobs Engineering, which provided engineering and science support at Johnson Space Center for the space shuttle fleet, the International Space Station, and other NASA programs; as the Executive Director of the Florida Space Authority; and as the Vice President of Student Affairs and Associate Dean of the College of Engineering at Florida State University. Scott (Captain U.S. Navy Retired) is a retired naval aviator who has served as a fighter pilot, production test pilot, and as a research and development test and evaluation project pilot flying the F-14 Tomcat, F/A-18 Hornet, and the A-7 Corsair jet aircraft. Scott, a former NASA astronaut, served as a mission specialist on STS-72 in 1996 and STS-87 in 1997. He logged more than 24 days in space including 3 spacewalks. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in music from Florida State University and a Master of Science degree in aeronautical engineering from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School.

Kai Schmidt, panelist, is an experienced HR Business Partner, who set up an HR Department including all processes and tools in an international environment for a second time. He obtained his Master Degree in “Educational Science, Psychology and People Development” at the University of the German Armed Forces in Munich where he served as “Recruiting and Consulting Specialist” at the Central HR-office of the German Armed Forces in Cologne for 4 years. Kai was appointed HR Director Airbus OneWeb Satellites in May 2016. Today he is managing all key HR processes in France and US. He ensures that business operations are supported by HR as a fully integrated Business Partner and contributes with his team to company competitiveness by making OneWeb Satellites a global employer of choice as well as an innovative and engaging place to work.

Jim Shultman, moderator, is the National Recruiting Operations Manager for Thales based in Orlando, FL. He joined Thales in 2015 after spending over ten years with a technical search firm providing optimal workforce solutions to highly regulated industries. He’s a recruiting leader with a positive and inclusive approach to building and engaging high quality Recruiting Teams in competitive markets; He is a trusted adviser to key stakeholders, executive teams, and colleagues to provide key market intelligence on how to find, attract, and hire top talent.
Keith Simpson, panelist, is the National Education Director at Festo Didactic Inc., a leading provider of advanced solutions for technical and industrial education. Keith is responsible for market and sales activities at all levels of education in the United States. Keith’s early years in the industry were focused in the areas of Analog/Digital Control Systems and Instrumentation and Process Control within University, Research and Military Applications. He is committed to closing the skills gap, improving workforce development and the push for Industry 4.0 career readiness. Festo is one of the first automation companies to collaborate with U.S. high schools, colleges and universities in order to better prepare students for emerging careers in engineering and technology. Festo provides industrial and education partners with the support they need through post-secondary apprenticeship programs, blended STEM curriculum, state-of-the-art engineering systems, curriculum, simulation software and lab equipment that resemble real world engineering challenges, and through sponsored vocational competitions and summer camps.

Roseann Stevens, panelist, is Vice President of Field Operations, Volunteer Resources, and Youth Protection at FIRST. She is responsible for field operations and has principal responsibility for overseeing Regional Directors and Committees; managing global Volunteer and Mentoring Resources, including 50 Senior Mentors and 50 AmeriCorps VISTA members; leading the FIRST Youth Protection Program; and organizing and promoting regional events and strategic partners for FIRST. She has been affiliated with FIRST for more than 10 years and has more than 25 years of industrial technology experience in the automotive industry, having worked for Tier-1 suppliers. She became the first female vice president at Lear and was instrumental in leading the sales team that won the first-complete interior program. In addition, Rosann has served on the boards of CLARCOR, Inforum, the Automotive Women’s Alliance, and the Girl Scouts of Metro Detroit. She holds a bachelor’s degree and an M.B.A. from the University of Detroit Mercy.

Robin Thurman, Summit emcee, is Director, Workforce & Industrial Base Development at Aerospace Industries Association. She comes to AIA with over 25 years experience in both the private and public sectors. She was previously an executive at Northrop Grumman, BAE Systems and Bechtel and developed strategic national and global Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs primarily focused on K-12 STEM education to ensure a strong workforce pipeline. Most of her career entailed leading customer relations, corporate social responsibility, strategic philanthropy, public and media relations, marketing and internal and external communications programs at these large, global corporations. In the public sector, she lectured on early brain development/childhood education and school board effectiveness and recently managed 8 panel workshops for the Education, Economics and Workforce track for the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives.

Dr. John L. Volakis, panelist, was appointed Dean of the College of Engineering & Computing (CEC) at Florida International University in August 2017. He has had a distinguished career at Ohio State University as the Roy and Lois Chair of electrical and computer engineering and director of the ElectroScience Lab. Previously, he served in leadership positions at University of Michigan and Rockwell International. His research interests are in wireless communications, antennas and electronics, and RF materials. He has published books, journal and conference papers, and has mentored more than 85 PhDs and Post-Docs. The FIU CEC boasts nearly 6,000 enrolled students and is #1 in the nation for graduating Hispanic engineers.
Chair: Robin Thurman
Director, Workforce and Industrial Base Development
Aerospace Industries Association (AIA)

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