Conference Logistics

Conference Venues:

**Wednesday August 30th**

Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center (CMCC)
1101 Lincoln Street, Columbia, SC 29201

**Parking Information:**
Parking for your event is fast and convenient with available spaces located at and around the CMCC: There is a 300-car capacity parking lot adjacent to the Convention Center. Parking in this lot is complimentary and subject to availability. There is also an 800-car parking garage located across from the facility on Lincoln and Pendleton Streets. 500 of these spaces may be available for attendees, subject to availability. The garage is managed by the City of Columbia with hourly rates for parking. Several metered spaces are available within walking distance of the Convention Center.

**Rates are as follows:**
$1.00 - First half-hour
$1.00 - Second half-hour
$1.00 - Each additional hour
Maximum - $10.00 per day

**Free Internet Access:**
To access the free internet:

1. Choose the wireless SSID CMCC_Hotspot network on your computer or device to connect.
2. Open your internet browser. A log-in screen will automatically appear. If you are not automatically redirected, visit bluesocket.columbiacvb.com/login.pl to log on.
3. In the left-hand column of the log-in page (in the yellow guest space), enter your email address and check the “I accept the terms of service” box below.
4. Click Log In.
5. You will be automatically directed to columbiaconventioncenter.com

**Thursday August 31st**

University of South Carolina Alumni Center
900 Senate Street, Columbia, SC 29201

**Parking Information:**
Parking is available in the City of Columbia parking garage located behind the Alumni Center. The entrances are on Pendleton Street and Park Street. Parking fees are currently $2 for the first hour and $1 for every hour thereafter.

There is also a special rate of $5 for conference guests for a one-time-exit of the garage. Stop by the registration desk to inquire about this pass. Credit/debit cards are accepted. Limited, metered street parking is also available in the vicinity of the Alumni Center.

**Free Internet Access:**
To access the free internet:

1. On the device, go to settings.
2. Select wi-fi.
3. In the list of available networks, choose the uscguest network.
4. Connect. No credentials (user name/password) are needed.
5. Open a browser and open a webpage.
**WEDNESDAY AUGUST 30**

**Opening Session - Ballroom**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 9:00 - 9:20 am | **Official Opening**  
*MC of the day:* Adrianne Beasley, Director of Aerospace Initiatives, South Carolina Council on Competitiveness  
Susie Shannon, President & CEO, South Carolina Council on Competitiveness  
Joan T. A. Gabel, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost for the University of South Carolina  
Bobby Hitt, Secretary of Commerce, South Carolina Department of Commerce | 15  
27  
19  
22 |
| 9:20 - 9:30 am | **Keynote Address**  
Henry McMaster, Governor of South Carolina | 25 |
| 9:30 - 11:00 am | **Plenary Session: Unmanned Aircraft Systems**  
*An Overview of the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Industry*  
*Drone Safety is good for Business*  
The Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles for Infrastructure Inspection | Brian Wynne, President & CEO, Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI)  
Lawrence Brinker, President & CEO (Interim), NUAIR Alliance  
Shane Boone, Vice President of Nondestructive Evaluation, BDI | 32  
16  
16 |
| 11:00 - 11:30 am | **Wrap-up**  
Michel van Tooren, Director of Ronald E. McNair Center for Aerospace Innovation and Research and SmartState™ Center for Multifunctional Materials and Structure (MFMS), University of South Carolina | 31 |
| 11:30 am - 12:00 pm | **Refreshment Break - Exhibit Hall** | |
### Workforce and Business Development Sessions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Location</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
<th>BIO Page</th>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 am - 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Panel Session: Educational Panel K-12 - Ballroom</td>
<td>Ballroom</td>
<td>James Stephens, Executive Director, South Carolina Aeronautics Commission; Molly Spearman, State Superintendent of Education, South Carolina Department of Education; Karen Coltrane, President &amp; CEO, EdVenture Children's Museum; Marty S. Conner, Jr., Associate Superintendent for Orangeburg County Consolidated School District Three; Darrell Johnson, Superintendent, Greenwood School District 50; Thomas E. Hodges, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, College of Education, University of South Carolina</td>
<td>29, 29, 17, 18, 24, 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 - 2:00 pm</td>
<td>Networking Lunch - Exhibit Hall</td>
<td>Exhibit Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 pm - 2:15 pm</td>
<td>Plenary Session: A Focus on Aerospace Growth in SC - Exhibit Hall</td>
<td>Exhibit Hall</td>
<td>Steve Townes, CEO Ranger Aerospace, Chairman ACL Airshop, Chairman SC Aerospace; Don Erickson, Site Director, Lockheed Martin Greenville Operations</td>
<td>30, 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:15 pm - 2:45 pm</td>
<td>Refreshment Break (sponsored by Spectra) - Exhibit Hall</td>
<td>Exhibit Hall</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:15 pm - 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Global Competitiveness: Aerospace and Defense: - Exhibit Hall</td>
<td>Exhibit Hall</td>
<td>Carole Rickard Hedden, Executive Editorial Director, Aviation Week Executive Intelligence; Melissa Azallion, Shareholder, McNair Law Firm</td>
<td>26, 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 pm - 4:45 pm</td>
<td>Doing Business in South Carolina - Exhibit Hall</td>
<td>Exhibit Hall</td>
<td>Tony Allen, Senior Program Manager, FDI, International Strategy and Trade Division; Chuck Spangler, President, SC Manufacturing Extension Partnership; Howard White, readySC Project Director, SC Technical College System</td>
<td>14, 28, 31</td>
</tr>
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5:00 pm - 6:00 pm  Happy Hour sponsored by Ranger Aerospace - Prefunction Ballroom

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm  Evening Reception - Ballroom
### ACE’17 Technical Symposium

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Speaker/Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:30 am -</td>
<td><strong>ACE’17 - Design of Composite Structural Parts - Lexington A Room</strong></td>
<td>Lexington A Room</td>
<td>Opening Remarks by Ramy Harik, Assistant Professor, Ronald E. McNair Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>for Aerospace Innovation &amp; Research, University of South Carolina and Chair of</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ACE’17 Technical Symposium</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chair: Zafer Gürdal, Ronald E. McNair Endowed Chair Holder, Ronald E. McNair</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Center for Aerospace Innovation &amp; Research, University of South Carolina</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Next Generation Carbon Fiber PrePreg with Flexible Processing</td>
<td></td>
<td>JEFF SATTERWHITE, Senior Research Scientist, Toray Composite Materials America,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nano-engineered Multi-scale Reinforced, Smart and Responsive Polymeric</td>
<td>MeHMET YILDIz, Director,</td>
<td>Leigh Hudson, Business Development Professional, Siemens PLM Software</td>
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<td>Composites</td>
<td>Composite Technologies Center</td>
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<td>of Excellence, Sabanci University, Turkey</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Steve Townes, CEO Ranger Aerospace, Chairman ACL Airshop, Chairman SC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:15 pm</td>
<td>Fresh Insights on the Growth of Aerospace in South Carolina</td>
<td></td>
<td>Aerospace</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:15 pm -</td>
<td>From Texas to South Carolina - Moving the F16 Facility to Greenville</td>
<td>DOn ERICKSON, Site Director,</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:45 pm -</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lockheed Martin Greenville</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:45 - 3:15 pm</td>
<td><strong>Refreshment Break (sponsored by Spectra) - Exhibit Hall</strong></td>
<td>Exhibit Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15 pm -</td>
<td><strong>ACE’17 - Innovation in Manufacturing - Lexington A Room</strong></td>
<td>Lexington A Room</td>
<td>Chair: Michel van Tooren, Director of Ronald E. McNair Center for Aerospace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:45 pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Innovation and Research and SmartState™ Center for Multifunctional Materials</td>
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<td>and Structure (MFMS), University of South Carolina</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The BMW i3 Production System: A New Way to Make Automobiles</td>
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<td>Dr. Jörg Schulte, Manager Research and Innovation, BMW Manufacturing Co.</td>
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<td>Industrialization and Research of Additive Manufacturing for Aerospace</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Arturs P. Bergs, Project Engineer, TIGHITCO Inc.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Innovations in Composite Design and Manufacturing</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ahsan Uddin, Senior Engineer, Crawford Composites LLC.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:45 pm</td>
<td><strong>Wrap-up by Chair</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 pm - 6:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Happy Hour sponsored by Ranger Aerospace - Prefunction Ballroom</strong></td>
<td>Prefunction Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 pm - 8:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Evening Reception - Ballroom</strong></td>
<td>Ballroom</td>
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Program information per August 16.
For an updated program, speaker information and bios please visit www.southcarolinaaerospaceconference.com/program/
DEVELOPING SOUTH CAROLINA’S AEROSPACE INDUSTRY

SC Aerospace is a collaborative effort of the South Carolina Council on Competitiveness to advance the Palmetto State’s aerospace industry cluster on the global stage.

$5.7 BILLION
SC AIRCRAFT + SPACECRAFT EXPORT SALES IN 2016

2016
2017

SC AEROSPACE COMPANIES WITH <500 EMPLOYEES PLAN TO GROW THEIR WORKFORCE BY 31% BY 2017.

TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT
DIRECT, INDIRECT AND INDUCED

$19 BILLION
& 100K JOBS
FOR SOUTH CAROLINA

$70,000
[PER YEAR]
AVERAGE TOTAL COMPENSATION FOR SC AEROSPACE EMPLOYEES

400+
CIVILIAN COMPANIES
= 17,114
TOTAL EMPLOYEES


SOURCES: SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL ON COMPETITIVENESS AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

#SCAerospace SCAEROSPACE.com SCAerospace
THURSDAY AUGUST 31  
University of South Carolina Alumni Center  
Strategic Diversification Workshop - Ballroom 1  
Sessions led by Fred Gassaway, Defense Diversification Manager, SC Department of Commerce

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 - 9:00 am</td>
<td>Breakfast - Prefunction Space Ballroom</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 9:00 am - 9:45 am| The Case for Diversification  
Brian Shea (Bio 27) + Lauren Martens (Bio 24) + Parry Carter (Bio 17) + Brianna Broad (Bio 17), kglobal  
Leverage your capabilities and seize new opportunities  
Strategic Planning  
Brian Shea (Bio 27) + Parry Carter (Bio 17), kglobal  
Define your future and the path to get there  
+ SWOT analysis and action plans  
+ Creating your strategy canvas  
+ Scenario planning                           |                               |
| 10:00 am - 11:00 am| Refreshment Break - Prefunction Space Ballroom                                                    |                               |
| 11:00 - 11:15 am| Market Research + Marketing  
Lauren Martens (Bio 24) + Brianna Broad (Bio 17), kglobal  
Know your customer, know your competition  
+ Marketing strategies  
+ Tools to pivot toward new target industries  
+ Outreach Tactics  
Branding  
Lauren Martens (Bio 24) + Brianna Broad (Bio 17), kglobal  
Creative solutions to give you an edge  
+ Why brand matters  
+ Brand development  
+ Messaging                           |                               |
| 11:15 - 11:45 am| Networking Lunch - Ballroom 2                                                                     |                               |
| 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm| Reducing New Product / Service Variation: New processes, products and services are often plagued with high levels of variation (and other shortcomings) resulting in increased costs and poor customer satisfaction  
Keith Gardner, President of eMRI, Midlands Technical College                           |                               |
| 12:30 - 1:30 pm| Refreshment Break - Prefunction Space Ballroom                                                    |                               |
| 1:30 pm - 3:15 pm| College and Manufacturers / Opportunities and Partnerships  
Lauren Holland, Associate VP of Corporate and Workforce Development, Florence-Darlington Technical College  
Tressa Gardner, Associate VP of the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology (SIMT), Florence-Darlington Technical College  
Value of Apprenticeship  
Carla Whitlock, Senior Apprenticeship Consultant, Apprenticeship Carolina, SC Technical College System                           |                               |
| 3:15 - 3:30 pm| Wrap-up and Closing by MC                                                                          |                               |

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm ACE’ 17 Closing Reception  
Twisted Spur Brewing  
705 Gervais Street, Columbia SC 29201

For an updated program, speaker information and bios please visit www.southcarolinaaerospaceconference.com/program/
# ACE’17 Technical Symposium - Presidential Dining Room

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<tr>
<td>8:00 - 9:00 am</td>
<td>Breakfast - Prefunction Space Ballroom</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 9:00 am - 10:30 am | **ACE’17 Industry 4.0**  
Chair: Abdel Bayoumi, Associate Dean, Corporate Relations, Director of Center for Predictive Maintenance (CPM),  
Professor, Mechanical Engineering and Biomedical Engineering, University of South Carolina  
Carole Rickard Hedden, Executive Editorial Director, Aviation Week Executive Intelligence  
*Data Driven Insights to Deliver Outcomes*  
Adam Smoot, Enterprise Account Manager, GE Digital  
*The Sound of Silence - Reduced Noise with electric Propulsion*  
Charles Croufer, Enterprise Sales Executive, Siemens PLM | 15                                           |
| 10:30 - 11 am | **Refreshment Break** - Living Room                                                                                                    |                                               |                                                                                  |      |
| 11:00 am - 12:30 pm | **ACE’17 Manufacturing and Inspection Automation**  
Chair: Ramy Harik, Assistant Professor, Ronald E. McNair Center for Aerospace Innovation & Research,  
University of South Carolina  
*Automatic Defect Inspection and Identification for AFP*  
Kris Czaja, Lead Process Engineer, Ingersoll Machine Tools  
*In Situ Thermal Inspection of Automated Fiber Placement Systems*  
Peter D. Juarez, Research Engineer, NASA Langley Research Center  
Elizabeth Gregory, Ph.D. Research Engineer, NASA Langley Research Center  
*Advanced Technical Weaving Technologies and Robotic Machining of Composite Parts*  
Oliver Meier, (Dipl. Ing. FH), North American Textile Sales Representative, Stäubli Corporation  
John Burke, Southeast Regional Sales Manager, Stäubli Corporation | 21                                           |
| 12:30 - 1:30 pm | **Lunch Break** - Prefunction Space Ballroom                                                                                          |                                               |                                                                                  |      |
| 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm | **ACE’17 Conformal Antennas**  
Chair: Mohammad Ali, Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, University of South Carolina  
*Physical Configuration of a Structurally Embedded Vascular Antenna (SEVA)*  
Gregory Huff, Professor, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Texas A&M University  
*Multifunction Structures for RF Applications*  
David Zeppetella, Electronics Engineer, Air Force Research Laboratory, Aerospace Systems Directorate  
*L-Band Additively Manufactured Conformal Microstrip Patch-Antenna*  
Michael Wright, PhD Candidate, Department of Electrical Engineering, University of South Carolina | 14                                           |
| 3:00 - 3:30 pm | **Refreshment Break** - Living Room                                                                                                    |                                               |                                                                                  |      |
| 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm | **ACE’17 High Speed Impact**  
Chair: Subramani Sockalingam, Assistant Professor, Ronald E. McNair Center for Innovation and Research,  
University of South Carolina  
*Material and Structural Characterization under High Rate and Multiaxial Quasi-static Loading: USC Infrastructure and Recent Results*  
Michael Sutton, Carolina Distinguished Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering,  
University of South Carolina  
*High Rate Loading of Woven Composite Materials*  
Mark Pankow, Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering,  
North Carolina State University  
*Hybridization in Composite Materials for Improved Impact Performance*  
Elizabeth Cates, VP of Research and Development, Innegra Technologies | 28                                           |
| 5:00 pm | **Closing by Ramy Harik**                                                                                                               |                                               |                                                                                  |      |
| 6:00 pm | **ACE’17 Closing Reception** - Twisted Spur Brewing 705 Gervais Street, Columbia SC 29201                                             |                                               |                                                                                  |      |

Program information per August 16.  
For an updated program, speaker information and bios please visit www.southcarolinaaerospaceconference.com/program/
There is a direct correlation between the performance of your Front Line Leaders and your P&L.

High Performance Front Line Leadership Skills and Behaviors Delivered

Unleash your greatest intangible assets to produce greater tangible results. We develop and implement “shoulder to shoulder” those high impact Front Line Leadership skills and behaviors that optimize supply chain effectiveness, capacity utilization, and operational performance.

That’s what we do to create P&L value. That’s what we do to deliver a high performance culture. That’s high performance, implemented and sustained.

The Powers Company
Creating Value Through Operational Improvement

ThePowersCompany.com
Exhibitors

Exhibitors*

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*Exhibitors as of August 16. Updated Expo Map can be seen in the Exhibit Hall throughout the conference or at www.southcarolinaaerospaceconference.com/exhibit/
Mohammod Ali, University of South Carolina
Tony Allen, South Carolina Department of Commerce
Melissa Azallion, McNair Law Firm
Abdel E. Bayoumi, University of South Carolina
Adrienne L. Beasley, SC Council on Competitiveness
Arturs P. Bergs, TIGHITCO Inc.
Shane D. Boone, BDI
Lawrence H. Brinker, NUAIR
Brianna Brood, kglobal
John Burke, Stäubli Corporation
Elizabeth Cates, Innegra Technologies
Perry Carter, kglobal
Karen Coltrane, EdVenture’s Children Museum
Marty S. Conner, Sr., Orangeburg County School District 3
Charles Croufer, Siemens PLM
Kris Czaja, Ingersoll Machine Tools
Randy Decleene, kglobal
Don Erickson, Lockheed Martin Greenville Operations
Joan T. A. Gabel, University of South Carolina
Keith M. Gardner, Midlands Technical College
Tressa Gardner, Florence-Darlington Technical College
Elizabeth Gregory, NASA Langley Research Center
Zafer Gürdal, University of South Carolina
Ramy Harik, University of South Carolina
Robert M. Hitt, III, South Carolina Department of Commerce
Thomas E. Hodges, University of South Carolina
Lauren Holland, Florence-Darlington Technical College
Gregory Huff, Texas A&M University
Leigh Hudson, Siemens PLM Software
Darrell Johnson, Greenwood School District 50
Peter Juarez, NASA Langley Research Center
Lauren Mortens, kglobal
Henry McMaster, Governor of South Carolina
Oliver Meier, Stäubli Corporation
Mark Pankow, North Carolina State University
Carole Rickard Hedden, Aviation Week Executive Intelligence
Jeffrey Satterwhite, Toray Composite Materials America, Inc.
Jörg Schulte, BMW Manufacturing Co.
Sue-Ann Gerald Shannon, SC Council on Competitiveness
Brian Shea, Simon Everett, Ltd.
Adam Smed, GE Digital
Subramani Sockalingam, University of South Carolina
Chuck Spangler, SC Manufacturing Extension Partnership
Molly Spearman, South Carolina Department of Education
Daniel Spector, Simon Everett, Ltd.
James Stephens, South Carolina Aeronautics Commission
Michael Sutton, University of South Carolina
Steve Townes, Ranger Aerospace
Ahsan Uddin, Crawford Composites LLC
Michel Van Tooren, University of South Carolina
Howard White, ready3D Project Director, SC Technical College System
Carla Whitlock, Apprenticeship Carolina
Michael Wright, University of South Carolina
Brian Wynne, AUVSI
Mehmet Yildiz, Sabanci University
David Zeppettella, Air Force Research Laboratory
Melissa Azallion has more than 20 years of experience advising clients on business immigration and labor and employment law issues. Ms. Azallion represents clients in multiple industries including manufacturing, technology, health care, quick service/food service, hospitality, government and education. In addition to serving as legal counsel for clients over the past fifteen years, Ms. Azallion worked as a Human Resources Administrator and Affirmative Action Director for the University of Dayton, where she was responsible for writing and directing the University’s Affirmative Action Plan. Ms. Azallion joined McNair in 2012 as a Shareholder and leads the Firm’s Immigration Practice Group.

Immigration Representation
Ms. Azallion’s immigration experience includes the representation of multinational and domestic corporations, their employees and private individuals in business immigration matters before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the U.S. Department of Labor, and at U.S. Consulates and Embassies throughout the world. Ms. Azallion assists businesses in obtaining and maintaining temporary work visas for professionals and skilled workers. She also has substantial experience assisting U.S. and international companies in sponsoring foreign nationals for green cards including labor certifications, national interest waivers and extraordinary alien petitions, among others. She processes J-1 visa waivers for foreign medical graduates and advises students and exchange visitors on a diverse range of issues. Ms. Azallion represents clients before the EEOC, U.S. Department of Labor and other employment agencies. She also advises clients on affirmative action issues in OFCCP compliance desk audits and reviews.

Labor and Employment Representation
Ms. Azallion provides advice and consultation to clients and assists in litigation matters on topics including: harassment and discrimination, wage and hour issues, restrictive covenants, FMLA, ADA and worker’s compensation issues, affirmative action and OFCCP compliance. Additionally, Ms. Azallion regularly provides client training on a diverse range of employment topics including discrimination and harassment in the workplace. Ms. Azallion represents clients before the EEOC, U.S. Department of Labor and other employment agencies. She also advises clients on affirmative action issues in OFCCP compliance desk audits and reviews.

Ms. Azallion is a frequent speaker for community and business organizations on immigration and employment topics. She is also actively involved in professional organizations such as serving on the Board of Directors for the Hilton Head Christian Academy and as a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association.
Abdel E. Bayoumi

Dr. Bayoumi has over 35 years teaching and research experience. Currently he is Director of the USC Center for Predictive Maintenance, Associate Dean for Corporate Relations and Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Biomedical Engineering. Before joining USC, he was Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at North Carolina State University, a project manager at Hewlett-Packard Company, and Professor of Mechanical and Materials Engineering at Washington State University. He has been actively involved in developing strong programs in mechanical, nuclear and biomedical engineering. His research activities have been focused in predictive maintenance, big data analytics and predictive maintenance, mechanical behavior of materials, manufacturing, design, and health monitoring systems. He has published 3 book chapters, over 100 papers and supervised more than 15 PhD and 40 MS students.

Adrianne L. Beasley

Adrianne joined the Council on Competitiveness in 2017 after serving as the Program Manager for the University of South Carolina McNAIR Center for Aerospace Innovation and Research. Adrianne was integral part of the strategic design and build out of the McNAIR Center, which focuses on key areas in advanced composite materials and manufacturing to support the aerospace cluster.

In her role as Director of Aerospace Initiatives for the Council, Adrianne is tasked with managing, marketing and growing the aerospace cluster in South Carolina. Prior to moving to South Carolina, Adrianne worked for HEICO Corporation in Hollywood, Florida, where she was Marketing Manager for the HEICO Parts Group (HPG). HPG is the world's largest independent supplier of FAA-PMA approved engine and component parts.

Adrianne has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Finance from the University of South Carolina Moore School. She holds a certification in Research Administration from the University of South Carolina.

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Arturs Bergs grew up near Philadelphia and earned his BS from Drexel University in Mechanical Engineering with a focus in Aerospace. Wanting to try living in a different part of the country, he moved to Atlanta and began work at TICHITCO as a Design Engineer. The versatility of 3D printing is what inspired him to pursue this field in his spare time. This led him to develop the use of 3D printing for the TICHITCO engineering department and the manufacturing floor.

In 2015, he joined the research team at McNAIR as a Project Engineer to explore the idea of continuous carbon fiber 3D printing for the aerospace industry. Here he has focused on developing the filament production systems and end effectors to print with. Alongside his research partner, he’s led the team to develop a functioning 7 axis continuous fiber 3D printing system and is one of the leaders industrializing this new technology for TICHITCO.

Shane Boone, Ph.D., Vice President of Non-destructive Evaluation at BDI, has spent nearly 15 years in the government, academic, and private sectors of specialized infrastructure inspection and monitoring. He specializes in the research, development and application of non-destructive testing & evaluation (NDT/NDE) technologies and health monitoring for the transportation, nuclear, power, oil and gas, defense, and telecom industries, among others. Dr. Boone founded SDB Technologies Inc. in March of 2015 with the goal of developing and utilizing new technologies and partnering with other leaders in this field to provide infrastructure owners with advanced tools for their asset management. In July of 2016, SDB Technologies and BDI merged.

Previously, Dr. Boone worked for the Federal Highway Administration for whom he managed the Agency’s NDE Program and performed research on the inspection of bridges, pavements, culverts, tunnels, and other transportation infrastructure, and the fusion of multiple NDT/NDE techniques. Additionally, he assisted in the development of the Long Term Bridge Performance Program’s Structural Health Monitoring committee. He began his career in Oak Ridge, TN, where for ten years he performed NDE on multiple nuclear facilities and systems, and developed high-speed structural and machine health monitoring systems for the Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Defense (DOD) and Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

Dr. Boone earned his Ph.D. in civil engineering from Utah State University, and his B.S. and M.S. degrees in civil engineering from the University of Tennessee. He has served as an adjunct assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering at Utah State University and the University of Tennessee. He serves as the chair of the American Society for Non-destructive Testing’s Structural Materials Technology Conference and Infrastructure Committee, sits on the TRB’s AFF40, Field Testing and Non-destructive Evaluation (NDE) of Transportation Structures, Committee, and is a member of multiple professional organizations dealing with the nation’s bridges and infrastructure.

Lawrence H. Brinker, Esq. is an experienced pilot and aviation attorney currently serving as the President & CEO (Interim) of the NUAIR Alliance, a New York Not-for-Profit corporation with over 100 public, private, and academic partners committed to growing a robust unmanned systems and connected vehicles industry sector. The NUAIr Alliance manages the Griffiss International Airport, FAA authorized, Unmanned Aircraft Systems Test Site in New York, Massachusetts, and Michigan.

He is retired from the US Air Force with 25 years total active and reserve service. During his military career he attained the rank of Lt. Colonel and held various positions including Command Pilot, Intelligence Officer, Operations Officer, Ethics Counsel, Congressional Liaison and Squadron Commander.

Brinker is a FAA rated Airline Transport Pilot with multiple type ratings and over 8000 international and domestic flying hours. He is a FAA rated Flight Engineer in turbo-jet aircraft. He previously served as a FAA Aviation Safety Inspector (Air Carrier).

He has over 30 years experience as an aviation public policy advisor to private and public sector clients from around the world. He attended the US Naval Academy and graduated from The Citadel with a BA in Political Science. He earned an MBA from Southern Illinois University and a JD degree from Atlanta Law School.

Mr. Brinker is a member of the Georgia Bar Association, the New York Bar Association, the Air Force Association, Lawyer-Pilots Bar Association and serves as a panel attorney on the ADPA Legal Services Plan panel.
Brianna Broad

Account Supervisor, kglobal

Brianna is a strategic communicator, media pro, and branding and marketing expert. Whether a company/organization wants to raise their profile, advocate for issues, or launch a product, Brianna discovers the best way to tell a story or communicate a message to motivate audiences to take action. Brianna primarily serves as a branding and business consultant for companies looking to diversify their revenue stream, refresh their brand, or implement new marketing initiatives. She also develops brands for communities and is currently launching a new brand for a small Midwestern city as part of the city's workforce development initiative. Brianna plays a critical role on kglobal's Brand Development team and has experience with stakeholder engagement, creative development, launch, and implementation. Additionally, she has media trained many executives including leadership at a multinational chemical and pharmaceutical company, served as a crisis media advisor for Dole Food Company, and leads media relations teams for multiple clients primarily focused on education, public policy, and economics. Brianna earned a Bachelor's in Media Communications at Medaille College and a certificate on Political Journalism from The Fund for American Studies.

John Burke

Southeast Regional Sales Manager, Stäubli Corporation

John Burke, Regional Sales Engineer for Staubli Corporation in Duncan, SC, has spent over 25 years in manufacturing and is a graduate of NC State University with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. He spent the first 15 years of his career working for Torrington and NSK in the Paper and Steel industry.

In the last 10 years, John has focused on automation applications. In 2007, John began to work with the Parker Hannifin Automation Group as an Automation Territory Manager in Memphis TN. He worked as a certified Pneumatic Fluid Power Specialist solving customer problems with Parker's pneumatic and electromechanical products. In 2012, after a promotion to Parker's electromechanical drive division in Charlotte NC, he led product development efforts for their latest drive line.

Since coming to Staubli in 2015, John assists customers in solving robotic automation challenges including the machining applications he will be discussing during the Aerospace Conference. He currently resides in Charlotte with his wife and three children.

Parry Carter

Account Supervisor, kglobal

Parry has extensive consulting experience in planning effective, systemic economic and workforce development strategies, implementing and analyzing business incentive evaluations, and creating logic models to measure program performance. He works with businesses, federal and state agencies, chambers of commerce, and special interest groups to implement strategies with measurable objectives to help clients achieve desired outcomes. Prior to joining kglobal, he worked as a Program Manager at the Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness, where he oversaw projects focused on state and local economic growth policies, workforce development initiatives and program evaluation metrics. Parry has a Master's degree in Public Policy from George Mason University's Schar School of Policy and Government and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Virginia Tech.

Karen Coltrane

President & CEO, EdVenture Children's Museum

Karen Coltrane is a graduate of the College of William and Mary with a B.A. in economics. After working her way through college as a supervisor at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, VA, she served as a bank officer with regional bank before returning to work for William and Mary as the director of annual giving and a major gifts officer during the college's $150 million Campaign for the Fourth Century. Since leaving the college, she has served in external relations positions for healthcare, national trade and membership associations, and human service organizations, and was the president and CEO of the Children's Museum of Richmond for seven years. There, she oversaw the opening of four satellites, making it the first children's museum in the nation to have multiple locations. In 2015, she became the CEO of EdVenture Children's Museum in Columbia, SC. In addition to her 26 years of professional work for non-profits, she has also been an active volunteer, including service as a regional president and member of the Board of Trustees of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America. She chaired the first Central Virginia Heart Gallery, served on the Board of Trustees of the Henrico Education Foundation and Richmond Regional Tourism and is currently a member of the Boards of Trustees of MEARVA. She was named the Central Virginia YWCA’s 2012 Outstanding Woman of the Year in the category of Nonprofit Management. Her husband, Rick, works for the Federal Department of Education in Washington, DC and their son, Sam, is a student at the College of Charleston.
Dr. Marty S. Conner, Sr., a native of Hot Coffee, Mississippi, currently serves as the Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for Orangeburg County Consolidated School District Three. During his eighteen years as an educator, Dr. Conner has served in many capacities including an executive director of schools for Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools, middle school principal, high school administrator, district director of alternative programs, and middle school science teacher.

Dr. Conner received his Bachelor of Science degree from Norfolk State University in Sports Medicine, his Master of Arts degree in Education Administration and Human Development from The George Washington University, Washington, DC, and his Education Specialist and Doctorate of Education degrees in Education Leadership and Administration from South Carolina State University.

Dr. Conner has proven to be leader in the field of education and he has received numerous awards and accolades for his success in education. With his commitment to serve all children, he is excited about the many future Aerospace and STEM opportunities South Carolina has to offer its’ students.

Despite his accomplishments and dedication to serve all children, Dr. Conner says the most humbling job he has each day is being a husband and father. He's been married to his wife Sheree' for 14 years and they have three sons, Brysen Alexander 9, Jackson Christian 8, and Marty Jr. 6.

Charles Croufer

Charles is currently managing the Test solutions and Engineering Services activities for the South East region at Siemens PLM. He is passionate about helping engineering teams bring innovation to product design through the better understanding of noise, vibration, and system dynamics.

He has a degree in Sound and Vibration Engineering from the Institute of Sound and Vibration Research (I.S.V.R) and a Masters in Oceanography from the National Oceanography Center both from the University of Southampton in the UK, and has worked at LMS and then Siemens after the acquisition for the last 14 years.

Charles worked for 6 years as product manager for the rotating machinery testing product line in the Leuven, Belgium development headquarters. There he supported key customers worldwide and lead the product development of new applications like engine and System testing and machine diagnostics.

Prior to his role in the US, he moved to São Paulo, Brazil to start the subsidiary of LMS in South America. The group there grew from 2 to 12 people over that period and achieved great results with many projects combining Testing and Simulation technologies, like Model Based Systems Simulation of Aircraft systems, NVH optimization of cars with TPA technique, fatigue life prediction of agriculture machinery, or optimization of electrical motors for O&G industry.

Kris Czaja

Kris Czaja studied Astronomy, Math, and Physics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Mechanical Engineering at Northern Illinois University. He joined Ingersoll Machine Tools in early 2011 as a Process Engineer. Since then he has worked closely with customers to improve the reliability and productivity of their AFP processes, and has been involved in several development efforts including optimizing machine kinematics, large scale 3D printing, and automated inspection.

Randy Declene

Randy has over 20 years’ experience working in the government and private sector with expertise in communications, primarily focused on business consulting, marketing and branding, as well as public affairs and public policy. His government work has led to significant positions at the White House, Pentagon and in Iraq. With the private sector, he has worked at large (Ogilvy, Ketchum) and small consulting firms, leading to engagements with for-profit companies, nonprofits, associations, state governments, and foreign governments. Randy leads all of kglobal’s OEA work as well as their projects with the federal government. Randy has an undergraduate degree from Indiana University (Bloomington), a Juris Doctorate from the Valparaiso University School of Law and a Master’s in Writing from Johns Hopkins University.
Site Director, Lockheed Martin Greenville Operations

Don Erickson is the Site Director at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Greenville where he is responsible for all activities associated with aircraft modification, maintenance, repair, overhaul (MMRO), final assembly services, and company management system (CMS) compliance. The Greenville site provides complex aircraft modifications, maintenance, mission system and technical upgrades. The facility comprises 276 acres with 16 hangars, support shops and warehouse space. The customer base includes the U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Coast Guard, Homeland Security and multiple International operators.

Prior to his appointment as Site Director in February 2012, Mr. Erickson was the Site Integrator, responsible for overseeing all aspects of Quality and Mission Success, Supply Chain Management, Process and Technical Integrity, Facilities, and Environmental, Safety and Health (ESH) functional organizations at the Greenville site.

Mr. Erickson joined Lockheed Martin in 1991 after 12 years supporting MMRO activities with a commercial airline. During the past 26 years, he has held a variety of technical and leadership roles within the company such as Project Manager for the site’s SAP system integration and rotational Corporate Ethics Officer for Sustainment Services, supporting operations at Greenville, Kelly Aviation Center in San Antonio and multiple Field Team Sites throughout the world.

Additionally, Mr. Erickson is an active member of the Greenville community, championing causes such as Habitat for Humanity, March of Dimes and the Upstate Honor Flight, and serves of the South Carolina Aerospace Council Board of Directors. He has also been recognized by former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley as Greenville County’s 2015 Economic Ambassador and by Greenville Business Magazine as one of Greenville’s Most Influential people in 2016.

Mr. Erickson holds a Bachelor of Industrial Engineering degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology. He is married to Sue Erickson and has a daughter and son and three grandchildren.

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, University of South Carolina

Joan T.A. Gabel is the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost for the University of South Carolina. Joining the university in August of 2015, Provost Gabel oversees sixteen schools and colleges. She is also responsible for the university’s graduate and undergraduate academic programs, curriculum development, program assessment, university accreditation, system wide academic affairs policies, faculty development, and the stewardship of resources in support of the above.

Prior to joining the University of South Carolina, Gabel served as the Dean of the Robert J. Trulaske, Sr. College of Business at the University of Missouri. Under her leadership, the college rebranded under the award-winning “We’ll Show You” campaign. She improved inclusion among diverse populations through key hires and strategic programming. Gabel worked collaboratively to secure a private/public partnership that generated significant resources to begin establishing the groundbreaking Applied Learning Center, a home for high-touch, experiential learning methods. She also served as a board member for the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). Named a “shining star” by The Wall Street Journal, she is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Charles M. Hewitt Teaching Award, the Kay Duffy Service Award and the Bunche, Kemper and Holmes-Cordozo Awards for Excellence in Research. Her work has been placed on the National Law Journal’s “Worth Reading” list and she served as editor-in-chief of the American Business Law Journal and the Journal of Legal Studies in Business. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Haverford College and her juris doctor from the University of Georgia.

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President of eMRI, Midlands Technical College

Keith Gardner has been consulting and training in the area of quality and productivity improvement for the past eighteen years. Currently he serves as the President of eMRI, a full service training and consulting firm that has served clients in 26 countries around the world. eMRI partnered with MTC in 2001 to create the MTC Center for Quality.

Gardner's primary training/consulting focus has been in the area of Lean Six Sigma and the use of continuous improvement tools to drive improvements to productivity and quality. He regularly teaches Lean Six Sigma Black Belt and Green Belt classes and consults with managers and senior executives in the implementation and enhancement of organizational Lean Six Sigma programs. In 2012, he published a book titled “Successfully Implementing Lean Six Sigma: The Lean Six Sigma Roadmap.”

In addition, he also consults and trains in the areas of failure mode and effects analysis, project management, lean tools and techniques, statistical process control, measurement system assessment, design of experiments, and applied statistical tools.

Over the past sixteen years, Gardner has worked with scores of companies in the implementation of quality and productivity improvement programs and methods. He has worked with multiple types of organizations including services companies, manufacturing companies and government agencies. A sampling of industries with which he has worked include automotive, metals, electronics, coatings, paint, chemicals, logistics, real estate, telecommunications, call centers, staffing services, social services, engineering services and health care. Firms have ranged from as few as 7 employees up to Fortune 10 clients.

Prior to joining eMRI, Gardner most recently served as the Director of Engineering for an engineering and construction firm serving Fortune 500 clients. He has also served as a Manufacturing Supervisor, Process and Project Engineer, Plant Manager, Product Manager, corporate Quality Assurance Manager and Director of Operations.

Keith received a Masters degree in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Michigan where he graduated with high distinction (highest possible honors). He also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering from Carnegie-Mellon University and is certified by the American Society for Quality as a Six Sigma Black Belt.

Associate VP of the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology (SIMT), Florence-Darlington Technical College

Tressa Gardner is the Associate VP of the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology (SIMT) at Florence-Darlington Technical College. Ms. Gardner connects business, industry, inventors and entrepreneurs with the advanced technological resources of the SIMT to increase innovation, expand capabilities, and improve efficiency and time to market. The SIMT’s extensive resources and capabilities support medical device development, aerospace, advanced manufacturing, and R&D. She also represents FDTC as Co-Principal Investigator on the CA2VES project, an initiative of Clemson University’s Center for Workforce Development.

Ms. Gardner received a BS in Economics from Francis Marion University and a Master of Arts in Economics from Clemson University. She served as Co-PI and Project Manager on numerous National Science Foundation grants to Florence-Darlington Technical College from 2003-2013 before joining the SIMT as Director of Business Development in 2013, and was named Associate VP in 2016. Prior to joining the college, she was Quality Assurance and Safety Coordinator Director for S & W Manufacturing. She was recently chosen as a 2017 Woman of Distinction by Girl Scouts of Eastern South Carolina, was FDTC’s Administrator of the Year in 2008 and was honored as a YWCA Tribute to Women and Industry (TWIN) recipient in 2009. She also serves on the boards of the Florence Regional Arts Alliance and Pee Dee Speech and Hearing Center.

Research Engineer, NASA Langley Research Center

Elizabeth Gregory joined the Nondestructive Evaluation Sciences Branch (NESB-D313) at NASA’s Langley Research Center in 2017. She was most recently a Research Engineer with the NIA working in the NESB supporting the Advanced Composites Project in the area of in-situ NDE for automated fiber placement. She will continue this work in her new position as well as participating in the new High Performance Computing Incubator. She completed her PhD in aerospace engineering at Iowa State University in May of 2016 where she worked at the Center for Nondestructive Evaluation on big data analysis for material state estimation. After earning her BS in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Kansas, she worked for two years at ATK Aerospace Structures in Clearfield, Utah on the Ares I Launch Vehicle composite structures design and material characterization. In 2009 she returned to graduate school at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where earned a MS in Mechanical Engineering while working at the Hawaii Space Flight Lab as the attitude determination and control subsystem designer and the payloads engineer.
Ronald E. McNair Endowed Chair Holder, Ronald E. McNair Center for Aerospace Innovation & Research, University of South Carolina

Prof. Güral is the inaugural holder of the Ronald E. McNair Endowed Chair at University of South Carolina. Prior to joining the University of South Carolina, he held the Chair of Aerospace Structures and Computational Mechanics at TU Delft, The Netherlands. He also holds Professor Emeritus appointment at Virginia Tech, where he was a Professor jointly appointed between the Aerospace and Ocean Engineering, and Engineering Science and Mechanics Departments.

Prof. Güral’s research interests are in structural and multidisciplinary design and optimization, design and optimization of composite materials and structures, and computational methods for design with manufacturing emphasis. His research has largely been funded by NASA Langley Research Center and Air Force Office of Scientific Research in the US, and EU Research Framework programs in Europe, as well as major Aerospace OEM in the US and in Europe. He was the principal investigator and co-investigator of more than 60 research grants, majority of which on methodologies for composite laminate design and novel structural configurations, as well as experimental verification of composites structures research.

Prof. Güral’s research contributions resulted more than 300 publications, nearly half are refereed journal publications. He is a co-author of 4 books. He has delivered keynote speeches and plenary addresses at 16 internationally recognized conferences.

Prof. Güral served as the graduate thesis advisor for more than 65 masters and 40 doctoral students. He is a Lifetime member and Associate Fellow of the AIAA, and member of the International Society for Structural and Multidisciplinary Optimization.

Assistant Professor, Ronald E. McNair Center for Innovation and Research, University of South Carolina

Dr. Harik, a Fulbright Scholar, is a Faculty in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of South Carolina and a resident researcher at the MCNAIR Center for Aerospace Innovation and Research. He is the program manager of MCNAIR Advance, an outreach program for industry. His education joins Mechanical Engineering (Masters of Science), Automated Manufacturing Engineering Technology (Masters of Science) and Industrial/Mechanical Engineering (Doctor of Philosophy). He mainly teaches courses in Computer Aided Design (CAD), Manufacturing and Computer Aided Manufacturing (CAM). Dr Harik is an Associate Editor of the Computer Aided Design & Applications international journal. He has more than 3 million USD in funding from Boeing, NASA, SC Department of Commerce, Fokker Aerostructures, Dassault Aviation/Systemes (funded as a student) and several other agencies. He is the recipient of the 2016 Outstanding Young Educator Award from Pi Tau Sigma Honor Society at the University of South Carolina. Dr. Harik is the chair of ACE’15, ACE’16 and ACE’17 Technical Symposiums and was the chair of the PLM’16 International Conference held in Columbia, South Carolina.

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Secretary of Commerce, South Carolina Department of Commerce

Robert “Bobby” M. Hitt III was appointed by Governor Nikki Haley to serve as Secretary of Commerce in January 2011. Hitt, the previous manager of corporate affairs at the BMW Manufacturing Company in Spartanburg, brings a wealth of economic development experience to the Department of Commerce and has personally worked with the previous five commerce secretaries.

Under his leadership as Secretary of Commerce, South Carolina has become a leader in economic development announcing more than $24 billion in capital investment and 95,000 new jobs to the state. Throughout Hitt’s tenure, South Carolina has consistently ranked number one in the export of both completed passenger motor vehicles and tires. In three of the last four years, the state has also led the nation in jobs created from foreign direct investment, per capita.

Before his time at Commerce and BMW, Hitt served as the director of planning and development for the Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough law firm and worked for 17 years at The State and The Columbia Record newspapers, serving as managing editor of both publications.

Hitt is a native of Charleston and is a graduate of the University of South Carolina. He and his wife Gwen have two sons, Lucas, and Robert Paul and one grandson, Ben.

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, College of Education, University of South Carolina

In August 2012, Thomas Hodges joined the Instruction and Teacher Education faculty at the University of South Carolina. He currently serves as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Previously, Hodges served as coordinator of Elementary Education programs, as well as Chair of the Department of Instruction and Teacher Education. From 2009–2012, Hodges was a faculty member at Western Carolina University where he taught undergraduate and graduate courses in mathematics education to elementary and middle grades majors, as well as coordinating the graduate programs in elementary and middle grades education. Previous to working in higher education, Hodges previously taught mathematics in Nashville, TN.

Dr. Hodges’ research centers on how teachers view their roles as teachers of mathematics in relation to local and global expectations of mathematics instruction. He also conducts research on the development of beliefs, attitudes, and dispositions towards mathematics teaching and learning among pre-service elementary teachers, which can then inform the design and assessment of mathematical experiences for pre-service teachers.
Lauren Holland

Associate Vice President of Corporate and Workforce Development, Florence-Darlington Technical College

Lauren Holland is the Associate Vice President of Corporate and Workforce Development at Florence-Darlington Technical College in Florence, South Carolina.

She brings over ten years of technical college experience to help business and industry in assessing, developing and delivering workforce development solutions, in addition to leadership that provides training programs that help individuals acquire new skills that lead to employment.

A native of Kannapolis, NC, Lauren previously worked as a Workforce and Economic Development Program Manager for Richmond Community College in Hamlet, NC, where she provided training sales and assessment of training needs to business and industry.

Other previous technical college experience includes work as the Director of Dual Enrollment at Sandhills Community College in Pinehurst, NC, as well as work in Student Services and as an adjunct college instructor.

Lauren is a graduate of Appalachian State University, where she earned her B.A. and M.A.

She and her husband have a daughter who is a student at USC and twin boys who are in high school.

Gregory Huff

Professor, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Texas A&M University

Professor Huff received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2000, 2003, and 2006, respectively. He has been with the Electromagnetics and Microwave Laboratory in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Texas A&M University in College Station, TX since 2006 and currently serves at the rank of Associate Professor. Prof. Huff apprenticed professionally and attained the rank of Chef de Cuisine with specializations in French and Mediterranean fare prior to his academic activities. After transitioning to academia in 2006 he was awarded the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) through the Department of Defense in 2008 for his work on multifunctional antenna techniques and materials for unstructured UAV swarms. He received the NSF CAREER award that same year for his bio-inspired research investigating the functional translation of the cuttlefish's skin to enable adaptive and responsive smart skins for high frequency application spaces. In addition to his academic roles, Prof. Huff currently serves as the USNC-USRI Commission C Chair and he is involved in several start-ups related to cross-platform application and electromagnetic hardware development for both education and security. He currently resides on the steering committee for the Center for Autonomous Vehicles and Sensar Systems (CANVASS) and has been the faculty advisor for the IEEE student section at Texas A&M University since 2007. His current research blends concepts from material science engineering, aerospace engineering and other concepts in multifunctional systems engineering. Major research vectors include structurally embedded antennas for extreme environments, software defined apertures for intelligent cyber-physical systems, and applications of machine learning in applied electromagnetic to enable electromagnetic agility in swarms and other distributed systems.

Leigh Hudson

Business Development Professional, Siemens PLM Software

Leigh Hudson is in Business Development and has been with Siemens PLM Software (formerly Vistagy, Inc.) for eleven years. Prior to his current position, he served as the Director of Product and Market Strategy for Fibersim and Technical Services Manager in Asia Pacific developing the indirect technical sales channels. His career in engineering began as a CAD administrator and designer at Harley-Davidson Motor Company. Mr. Hudson has earned a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee and a Bachelor of Science in accountancy at Bentley University in Massachusetts.
Superintendent, Greenwood School District 50

Innovative. Progressive. Passionate. These three words capture the essence of an educational leader who believes in children. Dr. Darrell Johnson, superintendent of Greenwood School District 50, is currently in his 12th year as superintendent. Dr. Johnson leads a district of eight elementary schools, three middle schools, two high schools, a technology center, and an adult education center.

Dr. Johnson's leadership was instrumental in District 50 becoming an active participant in the TransformSC/New Carolina Initiative. District 50 is at the forefront of redesigning classrooms to meet the needs of students through project based learning activities under his direction. In April, District 50's TransformSC schools collaborated to create a project based learning showcase for students and the community. He is leading the implementation of the Responsive Classroom approach in seven Greenwood elementary and two middle schools and he serves as a key partner in the development of the Responsive Classroom middle school program.

For nearly 30 years now, Dr. Johnson has pursued his passion to make a difference in the lives of children. While obtaining his teaching credentials in the mid-1980s, he worked as a school custodian and substitute teacher. After teaching language arts at the secondary level, Dr. Johnson served as an elementary school principal, then as an assistant superintendent before becoming superintendent of Greenwood School District 50. In 2004, he earned his doctorate in education at South Carolina State University. During this time, he still found time to officiate NCAA Division I college basketball games which he's done for more than twenty years.

What stands out most about Dr. Johnson is his energy, hard work, and dedication to the children, families, and wider community he serves. He is passionate about creating the conditions for every child to develop the core academic and social-emotional competencies they need for success at school and for what lies beyond. He is also an active, engaged member of his community, volunteering and serving on the local community foundation board.

This year, his district kicks off the Greenwood Promise, a $5 million public-partner venture aimed at providing scholarship money to assist students who have lived in Greenwood County with tuition support to earn an associate's degree or the final two years of a bachelor's degree.

Dr. Johnson provides insights into school leadership, human development, and what it takes for our children to become fully engaged, productive citizens of the world.

Research Engineer, NASA Langley Research Center

Peter Juarez joined the Nondestructive Evaluation Sciences Branch (NESB-D313) at NASA’s Langley Research Center in 2015. He converted to a civil servant research engineer position after interning in the branch for two years. Prior to this position while earning his B.S. in mechanical engineering at the University of Southern Maine, Peter worked as a project engineer working on thermal and ultrasonic characterization and process quality control automation. Since joining NASA, he has worked a wide range of aerospace nondestructive evaluation applications including: inspection technique development for atmospheric reentry thermal protection systems, structural health monitoring sensor development, laser based non-contact guided wave inspections, thermal processing monitoring of automated fiber placement system, new composite defect standard development, and ultrasonic data reduction and mapping for large scale test articles.

Vice President, kglobal

Lauren brings more than a decade of experience in both business consulting and communications, in both the United States and Canada. As a Vice President at kglobal, Lauren plays an integral role coordinating and developing new business opportunities for the company and its parent, Zenetex. Leveraging her knowledge of public affairs, strategic communications, messaging, and social media, she serves as the primary liaison between kglobal’s commercial and government practices. Prior to joining kglobal, Lauren worked for three DC-area start-ups helping them to successfully define, professionalize, as well as monetize their service offerings. In that capacity, she oversaw strategic planning activities and helped conceptualize, produce, and execute targeted branding and marketing strategies using both traditional and digital media. Lauren earned her Master’s in Media and Public Affairs from The George Washington University and a Bachelor’s in Political Science graduating Honors with Distinction from the University of Victoria.
Governor of South Carolina

Henry Dargan McMaster of Columbia became the 117th Governor of South Carolina on January 24, 2017.

The son of attorney and former state representative John Gregg McMaster and Ida Dargan McMaster, Governor McMaster is a lifelong servant of the State of South Carolina, having previously served two years as lieutenant governor, eight years as attorney general and four years as United States attorney.

McMaster was the first U.S. attorney appointed by President Ronald Reagan, and was unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate. His “Operation Jackpot” investigation into international drug smuggling produced over 100 convictions.

As attorney general, McMaster made prosecution of criminal domestic violence a priority and harnessed the resources of law enforcement and prosecutors to crack down on child Internet predators. He extended the state grand jury’s jurisdiction to environmental and gang crimes and broadened its authority to include securities crimes following the collapse of Carolina Investors and Home Gold, convicting those responsible.

In 2003, McMaster issued a landmark opinion to protect our marsh islands from encroachment and later won the Life Sciences Act case in the South Carolina Supreme Court, which enhanced the state’s economic potential through its universities for research, development and investment in the knowledge-based economy. The governor was central to the fight against “Obamacare,” organizing and leading the states in their challenge against the law’s unconstitutional federal encroachment.

As lieutenant governor, McMaster was president of the South Carolina State Senate and headed the Lieutenant Governor’s Office on Aging, which aids 34,000 older adults with social, economic and health needs.

In 2012, McMaster and former attorney general Travis Medlock led a bipartisan commission to reform ethics laws and restore the public’s trust in state government.

McMaster was chairman of the South Carolina Republican Party from 1993-2002, winning reelection three times. As state GOP chairman, he led the party to Republican majorities in South Carolina’s House and Senate.

Governor McMaster has served on the South Carolina Ports Authority Board of Directors, the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, the Palmetto Health Foundation Board and the South Carolina Policy Council (as chairman). He is admitted to practice in all courts, state and federal, in South Carolina, as well as the U.S. Court of Claims (1974), the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit (1975) and the Supreme Court of the United States (1978). Governor McMaster is a recipient of the Order of the Palmetto, the highest civilian honor in the state, and was named “Public Servant of the Year” by the Sierra Club and “National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year” by The Humane Society of the United States.

McMaster received his AB degree in history in 1969 from the University of South Carolina and his JD degree in 1973 from the University of South Carolina School of Law, where he served on the South Carolina Law Review. He spent time in the U.S. Army Reserves in the JAG Corps from 1969 to 1975.

Governor McMaster is married to Peggy McMaster, and they have two children, Henry D. McMaster, Jr. and Mary Rogers McMaster. They are members of First Presbyterian Church of Columbia.

North American Sales Representative, Stäubli Corporation

Oliver Meier, North American Sales Representative for Stäubli Corporation in Duncan, South Carolina, received his Master in Textile Engineering from Reutlingen University, Germany in 1996. During his studies in Reutlingen Oliver had the opportunity to study and participate in a 12 month nonwovens research project at North Carolina State University to complete his theses.

After completing his studies he moved from Germany to the US and started his textile career with Collins & Aikman. After 3 years with C&A, Oliver joined the German textile software company EAT in Charlotte, North Carolina where he managed sales for North and South America as the Vice President of Sales and Marketing.

In 2011 he joined Lectra, a French software & hardware manufacturer to the apparel industry and moved from there to Humans Solutions, a supplier of laser body scanning equipment and software.

Since December 2014 Oliver is part of the textile machinery sales team at Stäubli, a Swiss based manufacturer of robotics, connectors and textile machinery. He resides in Charlotte, North Carolina with his wife Susan and there 4 kids.

His presentation will focus on the latest advancements in the development of woven technical textiles and technical weaving equipment.
Mark Pankow

Assistant Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, North Carolina State University

Mark Pankow is currently an Assistant Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at North Carolina State University where he runs the Ballistic Loading and Structural Testing Lab (BLAST). Dr. Pankow completed his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering at California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) in San Luis Obispo, his M.S. and his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from University of Michigan in Ann Arbor working with Tony Waas. Prior to joining NC State, he worked as a post-doc at the ARMY Research Laboratory understanding composite materials in extreme environments. He is currently involved in many different projects related to understanding composite materials at high rates including, how kevlar vests dissipate the energy of projectiles and the deformation of composite panels subjected to lighting strike.

Carole Rickard Hedden

Executive Editorial Director, Aviation Week Executive Intelligence

Carole Rickard Hedden 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.

The Program Excellence initiative seeks to identify lessons learned and best practices in the art of program leadership, while also providing a process for developing future program executives. Program Excellence is a collaboration of industry program executives, as well as representatives of the Defense Acquisition University, NASA and academia. As of 2015, Program Excellence has evaluated more than 330 system and sub-system level programs and established a professional community of more than 1,200 program managers across the commercial, defense and space sectors.

Aviation Week’s Workforce Study, launched in 1997, 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. In 2013, Aviation Week added to this effort our Twenty20s program that identifies top engineering students on the basis of their academic acumen and research, but also their commitment to the community beyond the classroom. AIA is Aviation Week’s partner in the Twenty20s/Future Leaders program.

Prior to joining Aviation Week, Hedden worked for 20 years in the news media and as a corporate communications leader for Austin Peay State University, Honeywell Defense Avionics, and Corning Incorporated.

Jeffrey Satterwhite

Senior Research Scientist, Toray Composite Materials America, Inc.

Jeffrey Satterwhite graduated from the University of Washington where he received a B.S. (2007) and M.S. (2009) in Materials Science and Engineering. He joined the Composite Materials Research Laboratory (CMRL) at Toray Composite Materials America in Frederickson, Washington as a Research Scientist and has been with the company for seven years. He is responsible for research and development of composite prepreg materials and curing processes.

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Manager Research and Innovation, BMW Manufacturing Co.

Joerg has been the Manager of the BMW Liaison Office for Research and Innovation since May 2013. Located at BMW plant Spartanburg, SC, the office is setting up and driving numerous R&D projects, most of them carried out in collaboration with partner universities in the region. Spanning topics from quality management to robotics, Industry 4.0 and concept vehicles, BMW-internal customers for such innovation projects are located in plant Spartanburg or at corporate headquarters in Munich, Germany. In addition, Joerg is Adjunct Professor at the Automotive Engineering department of Clemson University, teaching a graduate class on Automotive Manufacturing.

Since joining BMW in 1996, Joerg held various leadership positions in capacity and investment planning, supply chain management and research and innovation with BMW in Germany and at the BMW Technology Office in Palo Alto, CA.

Prior to BMW, Joerg managed the Process Optimization group at the Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Engineering and Automation (FhG-IPA) in Stuttgart, Germany. In the course of numerous R&D projects he provided advanced solutions on manufacturing systems design, order to delivery optimization and scheduling for industrial companies across Germany and Europe. Joerg Schulte studied mechanical / industrial engineering at the universities of Braunschweig, Germany and Waterloo, Canada. He earned his PhD in mechanical engineering at the University of Stuttgart, Germany.

President & CEO, South Carolina Council on Competitiveness

Sue-Ann (“Susie”) Gerald Shannon recently wound up 13 years serving on a senior strategic team and overseeing the legal work of a network of organizations seeking to transform local areas into economically-vibrant communities. She has also worked as Director of Research for Palmetto Institute, an independent research foundation whose recent issues include Teach For America, The Benefit Bank® of South Carolina, tax reform, commercialization, agri-business, entrepreneurship training in rural areas, and workforce quality. Susie practiced for many years in the Columbia office of McNair Law Firm, P.A., in its Administrative-Regulatory section. In 2015, she was appointed by Governor Haley to serve on the Board of Commissioners for the South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority.

She is a native of Loris, a farming community located in Horry County, South Carolina. She also served in the U.S. Army Reserves and is a Veteran of Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm. She received her undergraduate and law degrees from the University of South Carolina and has worked as adjunct faculty at Midlands Technical College and University of South Carolina School of Law.

Susie currently serves as board chair of SC Thrive (includes The Benefit Bank® Program of S.C.) and is a member of the board of directors for Central Carolina Community Foundation, and has previously served on various other boards and task forces, including TogetherSC (formerly S.C. Association of Nonprofit Organizations/SCANPO, Jefferson Awards Foundation-Midlands (chair), The Benefit Bank Advisory Council, Lake City Housing Foundation, S.C. Housing Trust Fund, United Way of the Midlands’ Public Policy Committee and Young Leaders Society, S.C. Apprenticeship Taskforce, The Darla Moore and Richard Rainwater Foundation, Prevent Child Abuse-SC, as well as “Achieving the Dream,” a Lumina Foundation initiative designed to increase success rates of technical and community college students. She has also served on the Workforce Innovation Network Team, a U.S. Chamber of Commerce-led initiative of select states to foster cutting-edge workforce development. Susie is a graduate of the Riley Institute Diversity Leaders Initiative and the Nonprofit Leadership Institute of Francis Marion University and is a member of Liberty Fellowship (Aspen Global Leadership Network).

Principal, Simon Everett, Ltd.

Over the past ten years, Brian has led business units in companies at all levels – start-ups, small and mid-size analytic services firms, and large systems integrators. Throughout, he has consistently developed interdisciplinary teams and advanced corporate capabilities to creatively serve government, private sector, and non-profit organizations. He enjoys using analytic approaches to address diverse challenges, ranging from helping companies improve business processes, to helping the intelligence community manage strategic risk. Brian previously served for 12 years in the U.S. Air Force as an Arabic-language intelligence analyst and instructor, and is a graduate of the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California.
Enterprise Account Manager, GE Digital.

Adam works to bring GE’s digital industrial capabilities and best practices to the Department of Defense. He has been working to lay the required foundation to help the DoD increase asset availability, improve reliability, reduce maintenance costs, increase yield, improve quality, and much more. His primary focus is on integrating the various disparate data streams to deliver insights that lead to data-driven decisions. Before working at GE Digital, Adam held program management roles within GE Aviation and served in the Army as a helicopter pilot, deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn. He earned a B.S. from the United States Military Academy and a MBA from NYU Stern.

Assistant Professor, Ronald E. McNair Center for Innovation and Research, University of South Carolina

Dr. Subramani Sockalingam is an Assistant Professor in Mechanical Engineering at the University of South Carolina McNair Center for Aerospace Innovation and Research. His current research involves studying the dynamic impact deformation, damage and failure mechanisms of high performance fibers, yarns, conventional and non-conventional composites. His research interests are in the development of advanced materials that are light weight and stronger through a multiscale experimental and computational approach for aerospace, automotive and defense applications. He has a PhD from the University of Delaware Center for Composite Materials and a Master’s from the University of Cincinnati both in Mechanical Engineering. Additionally, he has six years of industrial experience. His combined industrial and academic experience includes multiscale finite element modeling and analysis of composite materials, experimental material characterization, constitutive model development, ballistic impact, design and development of body and vehicle armor, automotive crashworthiness and engineering consulting.

President, SC Manufacturing Extension Partnership (SCMEP)

Chuck has over 30 years of experience in a variety of different industries, including Milliken & Company, Michelin, Willis Hosiery, and the South Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership (SCMEP). He has been with SCMEP for 23 years in a variety of roles including Manufacturing Specialist, Field Manager, Chief Operating Officer, and now President.

As President, Chuck develops strategy, manages the organization’s budget, and develops new programs to promote growth. He is also responsible for cultivating a network of resources throughout South Carolina which include the SC Department of Commerce, economic developers, Chamber of Commerce, and private consultants. In 2016, SCMEP had a statewide impact of $1.443 billion and served over 440 manufacturers in South Carolina.

A champion in the development of the Competitiveness Review (CR) assessment tool, trained manufacturing and technical specialists can quickly identify the top two to three issues that have the greatest impact on a company’s competitiveness and profitability. It has helped develop holistic improvement plans for over 1,800 manufacturing clients since 1996. In recognition of these achievements, Chuck was selected Practitioner of the Year at the 2001 Modernization Forum, the annual MEP conference attended by centers across the country.

Chuck serves as a Board Member on the Advisory Committee of Workforce and Development at Clemson University as well as the Editorial Board for South Carolina Manufacturing. He holds a bachelor’s degree in Textile Management from North Carolina State University and is married with three boys.
Molly Mitchell Spearman was elected as the 18th South Carolina State Superintendent of Education on November 4, 2014. Native to Saluda County, Mrs. Spearman's childhood laid the foundations of family, faith, and hard work that transcended into her professional career as an educator and civil servant.

Superintendent Spearman's career has spanned 18 years as a public school music teacher and an assistant principal. In addition to teaching and administration, she has served four terms as a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives, six years as Deputy Superintendent of the South Carolina Department of Education, and ten years as the Executive Director of the South Carolina Association of School Administrators. She holds a B.A. Degree in music education from Lander University, a Master's Degree in education supervision from George Washington University, and an Education Specialist degree from the University of South Carolina.

As the South Carolina Superintendent of Education, Mrs. Spearman has the experience and relationships needed to move South Carolina's education system forward. Superintendent Spearman strongly believes the foundation for student success lies in effective classroom teachers and principals who facilitate personalized learning for every student, every day. Her vision is for every South Carolina graduate to be prepared for the next step after graduation. Superintendent Spearman is excited to keep a positive and forward-thinking approach to South Carolina education to promote better schools and brighter futures.

James Stephens is the Executive Director of the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission, and is charged with managing the state’s executive aviation fleet as well as the state’s system of airports. He holds degrees in Aviation Management and Aircraft Maintenance from Bob Jones University, and is a licensed Airframe & Powerplant mechanic and Private Pilot.

Prior to his last five and a half years with the Aeronautics Commission, he served as Vice President of Marketing and Sales for the Special Services Corporation in Greenville, SC. During his time with Special Services, the aircraft management company grew from a fleet of four aircraft to ten aircraft, most of which were offered on the aircraft charter market for private use. Stephens’ past experiences also include airport management in McMinnville, Tennessee, and aircraft maintenance in Greenville, South Carolina.

Stephens is currently the chair of the South Carolina Aerospace Education Working Group, and is working with industry, academia, and government to promote the aerospace/aviation industry to South Carolina students. He serves on the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) Finance, Legislative, and Unmanned Aircraft Committees, and on the advisory committee of the Transportation Research Board’s, Airport Cooperative Research Program current study entitled “Developing innovative Strategies for Aviation Education and Participation”.

- Fostering air and economic development
- Supporting the state’s public use airports
- Providing aviation education opportunities
- Providing executive travel for state business
Michael Sutton

Carolina Distinguished Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of South Carolina

Michael A. Sutton received his Ph.D. in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana in 1981. He has spent his professional career as an educator and scientific researcher in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of South Carolina. Prof. Sutton has received numerous awards for his contributions in the field of experimental solid mechanics including designation as a Distinguished Alumnus by Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL (1990) and recently by the University of Illinois in Urbana Champaign (2015); election to the grade of Fellow by SEM (2000) and by ASME (2004); President of SEM (2001-2002); selection for an Doctoris Honoris Causa from Ecole’ Polytéchnic in Cachan-Paris, France (2011); selection to receive the Murray Medal and give the Murray Medal lecture (2013). Prof. Sutton has published 230+ journal articles, written eight research book chapters and one textbook chapter and co-authored the only book on digital image correlation methods. His publications continue to be actively used by others, with nearly 20,000 citations, an h-index of 59 and an i10 index of 177. Prof. Sutton’s current interests are in applications of digital image correlation methods in civil engineering infrastructure, basic studies in aerospace composite materials and their constituents, high rate loading of materials and synthesis of image correlation and analytical methods for both R&D and design. Prof. Sutton will celebrate his 45th wedding anniversary with his wife Elizabeth Ann in 2018. They have two daughters, Michelle Spigner born in Urbana, IL in 1979 and Elizabeth Gosnell born in Columbia, SC in 1982, and three grand-children. Hobbies for Prof. Sutton include organic gardening, wildlife habitat restoration and an occasional round of golf.

Steve Townes

President and CEO, Ranger Aerospace, Chairman ACL AirShop, Chair SC Aerospace

Mr. Townes, a well-known entrepreneur in the aerospace services arena, is President, CEO and a Director of Ranger Aerospace, the company that he founded in early 1997. He is also chairman of ACL AirShop, an air cargo services and leasing company with operations at 40 of the world’s largest cargo hub airports.

Townes’ diverse background spans three decades in the commercial, corporate, and military aviation industry. Before going independent with Ranger Aerospace in 1997, he was previously Vice Chairman, and earlier President, of Sabreliner Corporation’s heavy aircraft services divisions. Townes was Executive Vice President of Stevens Aviation, a $115 million multi-city aviation services chain which more than doubled in size and made two acquisitions while Townes was its chief operations, marketing and technical services officer.

Townes has also been Vice President of Major Programs and Marketing of the Dee Howard Aerospace Corporation, as well as a Program Leader and Marketing Leader in LTV Aerospace and Defense. Townes is an engineering graduate of West Point. Steve earned the coveted Eisenhower Award upon graduation there. He also holds an MBA from Long Island University and completed the PMD program at Harvard Business School. Steve named his company in honor of special operations forces, where he also has personal heritage. He served in the 1st/75th Ranger Battalion as a young airborne infantry officer, and graduated #1 from the Army’s Ranger School.

Ahsan Uddin

Senior Engineer, Crawford Composites LLC

Ahsan Uddin is a Senior Engineer at Crawford Composites LLC. He joined Crawford composite in February 2017. He is responsible for innovation, product design and manufacturing process development for structures using composite materials. Crawford’s primary markets are: aerospace and aviation, motorsports, medical imaging and industrial products. Mr. Uddin has over 5 years of engineering and research experience in industry. He received a Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of South Carolina McNair Center for Aerospace Innovation and Research and a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical engineering from Military Institute of Science and technology in Bangladesh.

Mr. Uddin has wide interdisciplinary research experience in the area of nonlinear mechanics, composite structures and performance enhancement of fuel cells. He has been instrumental in developing industry and academia collaboration for this research. Mr. Uddin has published his research contributions in peer reviewed journals such as American institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), Smart Materials and Structures, American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), ECS (Electro chemical society), ENC (Experimental Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Conference) and IWSHM (International Workshop of Structural Health Monitoring).
Michel Van Tooren is Professor Aerospace Systems Design and Structures at the College of Engineering and Computing (CEC) of the University of South Carolina and director of the Ronald E. McNair Center for Aerospace Innovation and Research. Michel has a BSc, MSc and PhD in Aerospace Engineering and joined CEC in September 2013. Before joining USC he worked for Fokker Aerostructures in the Netherlands as Manager New Concept Development. He combined this position in industry with a part-time appointment at the Faculty of Aerospace Engineering of the Delft University of Technology. Prior to that he worked ten years as professor Systems Integration Aircraft at the same University, building a group specialized in Aircraft Design, Flight Mechanics and Multi-disciplinary Design Optimization. This group became well-known for its work in MDO, Aircraft Design, KBE and Truck Aerodynamics. He combined the research activities with a position in the management team of the faculty of Aerospace Engineering as vice dean. All this followed a previous ten years of research, education and innovation in design of composite structures. His research focus at CEC is on design and manufacture of composites structures. In addition he serves as the Program Director Aerospace Engineering Studies for CEC. As of August 16, 2015 he was appointed as SmartState endowed chair in the Center for Multifunctional Materials and Structures. He will continue his roles in the McNAIR Center.

Howard White is the SC Technical College System’s readySC Project Director for Boeing Training. He retired from the United States Navy after 30 years of honorable and decorated service as a Submariner. In July of 2008 he joined the readySC Team as an instructor with the Dreamliner Project supporting aerospace training for Vought and Global Aeronautica. Six months later shifted over to support the BOSCH training and soon after became the BOSCH Project Manager for readySC. In December 2009 Howard led a team in developing and delivering a Pre-Hire Training Program for readySC supporting Boeing’s “New Hire” requirements. In 2010 he accepted the role as Director for readySC’s Boeing Training Program. He currently leads a team of 72 instructors and support staff in the delivery of over 200 Boeing training courses to thousands of Boeing employees at Trident Technical College as well as multiple facilities at Boeing’s Airport and North Campuses.

Carla Whitlock currently serves as Senior Apprenticeship Consultant with Apprenticeship Carolina and is responsible for the operations of the program as well as its four grant opportunities. Her professional background has included public accounting with one of the nation’s largest regional accounting firms, tax credits and economic development consulting, government relations, marketing and business development. Prior to joining Apprenticeship Carolina, Carla was a Project Coordinator with Pickens County, South Carolina, where she worked with agencies in the areas of economic development, tourism, transportation, and emergency management. Throughout her career, she has worked with a number of industries including manufacturing, financial services, energy, information technology and health care. Carla’s expertise has been featured during conferences and events sponsored by the Urban Institute, Appalachian Regional Council, Department of Labor, NAACP, economic development organizations and individual trade associations.

A graduate of Southern Wesleyan University with a degree in Accounting and Business Administration, she is a South Carolina Certified Economic Developer and a graduate of the SC Technical College System Leadership Academy. She has also completed the National Basic Economic Development Course through the University of North Carolina. Carla is a former Board Member for Junior Achievement of the Upstate and is active member of the South Carolina Economic Developers Association.

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Michael Wright

PhD Candidate, Department of Electrical Engineering, University of South Carolina

Michael D. Wright was raised in St. Petersburg, FL. He received his B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of South Carolina in 2013. Immediately after graduation Michael began pursuing graduate studies in antenna design under Prof. Mohammad Ali at the University of South Carolina. As part of his graduate work, Michael was afforded the opportunity to spend a full year at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, OH (USA) learning practical and hands-on CLAS (conformal, load-bearing antenna structure) design concepts. Currently, Michael is PhD candidate at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC. His research interest include frequency reconfigurable antenna systems, CLAS, and direct-write antenna fabrication techniques.

President & CEO, AUVSI

Brian Wynne is president and CEO of the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI), the world's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of unmanned systems and robotics. AUVSI represents more than 7,000 members from more than 60 countries involved in the fields of government, industry and academia. AUVSI members work in the defense, civil and commercial markets.

Wynne brings in-depth experience in transportation and technology applications gained through leadership roles with industry associations and public-private partnerships. Prior to joining AUVSI in January 2015, he was president and CEO of the Electric Drive Transportation Association (EDTA), the trade association promoting battery, hybrid, plug-in hybrid, and fuel cell electric drive technologies and infrastructure.

Before joining EDTA in 2004, Wynne was senior vice president for business and trade at the Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITSA). Previously, he led a global technology association as CEO of the Association for Automatic Identification and Mobility (AIM). He started his career as a legislative assistant to U.S. Sen. Charles Percy, and has served on the boards of several nonprofit organizations.

Wynne is a member of the Drone Advisory Committee (DAC), a group of key decision-makers formed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to support the safe introduction of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) into the nation's airspace. He is also a member of the FAA's Unmanned Aircraft Safety Team (UAST), which is comprised of stakeholders from government and the aviation industry that gather and analyze data to enhance UAS safety and operations. He also served on the FAA's UAS Registration and Micro UAS task forces.

Wynne earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Scranton, and a master's degree from the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University. He was also a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Cologne in Germany.

For more than 20 years, Wynne has been an instrument-rated, general aviation pilot, and recently received a commercial pilot certificate. He flies a Socata Trinidad.

Mehmet Yildiz

Director, Composite Technologies Center of Excellence, Sabanci University

Dr. Yildiz graduated from the Department of Metallurgical Engineering in 1996 at Yildiz Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey. He completed his Master degree in 2000 in the Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering at Istanbul Technical University while working as welding and non-destructive engineer in oil and gas industries. He received his PhD degree in 2005 in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Victoria, BC, Canada. His PhD research was in the area of experimental and computational materials processing, and transport phenomena (heat, mass and momentum transfer in multicomponent mixtures) with application to semiconductor crystal growth. Upon the completion of his PhD study, he started working as a research associate and lecturer in the same department. He joined to the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences at Sabanci University as an Assistant Professor in Sep 2007 and is currently working there at the rank of Associate Professor with affiliation to Manufacturing Engineering and Materials Science and Nanoengineering Program. Dr. Yildiz’s efforts focus on creating and sustaining a research program capable of tackling complex engineering problems that requires multidisciplinary approaches through utilizing both experimental methods, mathematical and computational models. The objectives of his several concurrently progressing effort are (i) the development of novel and modern mathematical models and numerical tools related to core disciplines in fluids and solid mechanics using meshless methods such as smoothed particle hydrodynamics and peridynamics and (ii) polymer processing, and the manufacturing of both conventional and nano-integrated composite materials, and structural health monitoring of composites by employing optical sensor and (iii) application of these tools and processes to emerging technologies: Self-Healing Composites, Nana-phase Integrated Composites, Structural Health Monitoring and Life Prognosis of Aircraft Composite Structures. As a result of his academic endeavors, he has published more than 70 SCI high impact factor journal papers, over 120 conference papers/presentations in respected conferences, 5 book chapters and 4 patents. Dr. Yildiz is founding director of “Composite Technologies Center of Excellence, CTCE” in the Technopark Istanbul as a joint effort of Sabanci University (SU) and Kordsa Global within the framework of a new university-industry partnership model for industrial scale-research and technology development in the field of advanced composite material and manufacturing technologies and also the “Integrated Manufacturing Technologies Research and Application Center”.

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Mehmet Yildiz

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Electronics Engineer, Air Force Research Laboratory, Aerospace Systems Directorate

David Zeppettella is an Electronics Engineer working in the Aerospace Systems Directorate at the Air Force Research Laboratory where he leads research on multifunction structures. His research focuses on dual-purpose composite structures for structural state sensing and RF applications. David is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of South Carolina and also has an M.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from The University of Dayton and a B.E. in Electrical Engineering from Youngstown State University. He has 19 years of engineering and R&D experience working at laboratories associated with the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy.

VP Research and Development, Innegra Technologies

Dr. Elizabeth Cates currently serves as the Director of Research and Development for Innegra Technologies, a young company bringing the lightweight and tough Innegra yarn to the market. She received her undergraduate degree in chemistry from North Carolina State University and her doctorate in Materials Chemistry from the Pennsylvania State University studying biomimetic nanocomposites. Dr. Cates has spent her career working in the technical textile industry in research and development, new product development, and analytical testing. She has technical experience in textile and fiber surface modification for adhesion, polymer extrusion, composites technologies, digital printing technologies, electrotextiles, and flammability testing, and has several patents in these areas.

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