2026

RLI

Research Leadership Institute

Program Book

March 9–11, 2026 ◈ **Hilton Alexandria Old Town**

ASEE American Society for Engineering Education

About the Research Leadership Institute

Conference Goals

The ASEE Engineering Research Council (ERC) will be hosting the annual Research Leadership Institute (RLI) at the Hilton Alexandria Old Town, March 9–11, 2026. Formerly known as the ERC Annual Meeting, the RLI focuses on leadership and capacity building for associate deans and other research leaders across all disciplines. Topics change annually in response to national trends and areas of interest, with a mix of interactive table discussions, panel discussions, and presentations. This year's sessions focus on industry partnerships, emerging technologies, research translation, communicating research impact, federal research policy changes, career pathways for Associate Deans for Research (ADRs), the federal funding landscape, and faculty development. The RLI will also include an "ADR boot camp" opportunity for individuals who recently assumed research leadership roles.

Sessions begin on Monday and continue through Wednesday morning, allowing time for participants to schedule Wednesday afternoon meetings with federal program managers or colleagues in the Washington, DC area. Peer networking will also be facilitated via optional small group dinners arranged at nearby restaurants on Monday evening. The RLI is a learning and networking opportunity designed to be of value to associate deans of research and those in research leadership roles across disciplines, and we encourage ERC members to share broadly with others at their university. ERC membership is not required for attendance.

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Monday, March 9, 2026

10am – 5:30pm Salon BC Foyer	**Registration**
9am – 10am Madison	**ERC Executive Board Meeting**
10am – 11:30am Salon BC	**New ADR Bootcamp** This session will provide practical guidance and useful insights for navigating and succeeding at the many services that ADRs perform on behalf of their college/school and institution. It will frame the structure of these roles and how they fit in the campus research ecosystem, with emphasis on creating synergies across colleges, centers/institutes, and support units and advancing research development and discovery. Although the session is primarily intended for ADRs in their first few years of service, the program should be of benefit to anyone who supports the diverse needs of faculty within a research context. Moderators: **John Coulter**, *Lehigh University* **Joe Konstan**, *University of Minnesota* **Mark Riley**, *University of Nebraska–Lincoln*
1:30pm – 1:45pm Salon BC	**Welcome and Introductions** **John Coulter**, *ERC Chair, Lehigh University* **Christi Patton Luks**, *ASEE President, Missouri University of Science and Technology*
1:45pm – 3pm Salon BC	**Session 1: Building Sustainable Industry Partnerships** In today's environment, building and sustaining research partnerships that bridge academia and industry is of critical importance. Led by a renowned international expert, this session will provide research leaders with insight on how to build sustainable university-industry partnerships. Moderators: **John Coulter**, *Lehigh University* **Mark Van Dyke**, *The University of Arizona* Speaker: **Anthony M. Boccanfuso**, *President and CEO, University-Industry Demonstration Partnership*

Monday, March 9, 2026

3pm – 4pm Salon BC	**Session 2: Integrating Emerging Technologies in Research Administration** This session will present a case study in the development of artificial intelligence (AI) tools specifically for use in the proposal pre-award process. Results of engagement with stakeholders, including survey and focus group discussions, and investigations of commercially available large language models (LLMs), custom LLM development, and AI tool enhancements using institutional datasets will be shared. Recommendations for approaches and emerging best practices for development of AI tools to address the full life cycle of grant development will be discussed. **Moderators:** **Sukesh Aghara**, *University of Massachusetts, Lowell* **Mark Van Dyke**, *The University of Arizona* **Speaker:** **Mark Van Dyke**, *Professor and Associate Dean of Research, The University of Arizona*
4pm – 4:15pm Salon BC Foyer	**Refreshment Break Sponsored by McAllister & Quinn**
4:15pm – 5:30pm Salon BC	**Session 3: F&A Rates and Adaptations** F&A rates have a bad reputation. What is sometimes derisively called “overhead” is an efficient way of estimating and paying for costs such as buildings, utilities, safety, compliance, and accounting—each of which is expensive to itemize on a per-project basis. In this session, we reintroduce F&A from the perspective of explaining it to different audiences—faculty, legislators, and the public. In view of current discussions about capping F&A rates or changing the overhead formulas, we will also discuss mechanisms universities may explore for reducing overhead and increasing allocable direct costs. **Moderators/Speakers:** **Joseph A. Konstan**, *Associate Dean for Research, University of Minnesota* **John Verboncoeur**, *Senior Associate Dean for Research, Michigan State University*

Monday, March 9, 2026

5:30pm – 6:00pm Salon BC Foyer	**Drinks/Networking**
6pm – 8pm Various Locations	**No-Host Dinners**

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

8am – 5:30pm Salon BC Foyer	**Registration**
8am – 8:30am Salon A	**Breakfast**
8:30am – 9:45am Salon BC	**Session 4: Faculty Engagement in Research Translation** In today's environment, the effective translation of university-based research to beneficially impact society is as important as the research itself. This session will highlight related issues and best practices, with particular attention given to the importance of effective faculty engagement in research translation. **Moderators:** **John P. Coulter**, *Lehigh University* **Michael Gooseff**, *University of Colorado Boulder* **Speakers:** **Rich G. Carter**, *Professor and PTIE Director, Oregon State University* **Wil V. Srubar**, *Professor and Associate Dean for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, University of Colorado Boulder*
9:45am – 11am Salon BC	**Session 5: Communicating Research Impact** Opportunity to share with peers on best practices, challenges, and solutions for conveying the impact of research activities beyond campus. **Moderators:** **Emily Hunt**, *West Texas A&M University* **Michael Keller**, *The University of Tulsa* **Sherri Kermanshachi**, *Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg, The Capital College* **Speakers:** **Nathan Kahl**, *Director of Communications and Public Relations, George Mason University* **Ken Reardon**, *Professor, Chemical & Biological Engineering, Colorado State University*

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

11am – 11:15am Salon BC Foyer	**Refreshment Break Sponsored by McAllister & Quinn**
11:15am – 12:30pm Salon BC	**Session 6: Federal Research Policy Changes** The past 15 months have brought many changes in the research landscape, some of them sudden and many of them surprising. What can we learn from these recent changes, and what can we expect in the coming year? A panel of experts on federal research will provide their thoughts and engage in a Q&A session with the audience. **Moderators:** **Sherri Kermanshachi**, *Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg, The Capital College* **Ken Reardon**, *Colorado State University* **Speakers:** **Gavin Clingham**, *Principal of Mortar Strategies* **Kevin Cooke**, *Assistant Vice President for Research Policy, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)* **Luis Maldonado**, *Vice President for Government Relations and Policy Analysis, American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU)*
12:30pm – 1:30pm Salon A (Food Served) Salon BC (Dining)	**ERC Business Meeting Lunch & McGraw Awards** **Speakers:** **John Coulter**, *ERC Chair, Lehigh University* **Brian Novoselich**, *CEO and Executive Director, ASEE Headquarters*
1:30pm – 1:45pm	**Transition Break (No Food/Beverage)**

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

1:45pm – 3:15pm Salon BC	**Session 7: Career Pathways and Professional Growth for ADRs** This session will cover career pathways and professional development for ADRs who are preparing for the next step in their careers. **Moderators:** **Joseph Konstan**, *University of Minnesota* **Suzanne Shontz**, *The University of Kansas* **Speakers:** **Forrest Masters**, *Dean of Engineering, Oregon State University* **Vahid Motevalli**, *Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg, The Capital College* **Pamela Norris**, *Dean of Engineering, University of Delaware*
3:15pm – 4:15pm Salon BC	**Session 8: Research Data Management and Security** Working with the Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Energy (DoE) can bring challenges regarding security issues, data management, and restrictions on facilities and personnel. Moreover, security directives are changing across all federal agencies. Learn how one successful DoD-funded center manages these challenges and exchange best practices with other participants. **Moderators:** **Emily Hunt**, *West Texas A&M University* **Ken Reardon**, *Colorado State University* **Speaker:** **Nathan Tichenor**, *Chief Research Officer, George H.W. Bush Combat Development Complex*

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

4:15pm – 4:30pm Salon BC Foyer	**Refreshment Break Sponsored by McAllister & Quinn**
4:30pm – 5:30pm Salon BC	**Session 9: US Research Enterprise: Challenges, Opportunities, and Unknowns** This session will highlight changes to federal funding including F&A and how the FAIR model was created through interdisciplinary engagement of the JAG. Topics will also include advice for working with elected officials and the continuing role of the research enterprise in advancing US economic interests. MODERATORS: **John Coulter**, *Lehigh University* **Mark Riley**, *University of Nebraska–Lincoln* SPEAKER: **Kelvin Droegemeier**, *Professor and Special Advisor to the Chancellor for Science and Policy, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign*
5:30pm – 6pm Salon BC Foyer	**Reception**
6pm – 6:30pm Salon A (Food Served) Salon BC (Dining)	**Dinner**
6:30pm – 7:30pm Salon BC	**Fireside Chat** SPEAKER: **Kelvin Droegemeier**, *Professor and Special Advisor to the Chancellor for Science and Policy, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

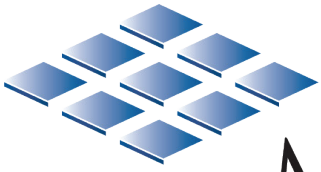
Wednesday, March 11, 2026

8am – 12pm Salon BC Foyer	**Registration**
8am – 8:30am Salon A	**Breakfast**
8:30am – 9:45am Salon BC	**Session 10: Federal Funding Landscape** Learn about updates to funding opportunities with the National Science Foundation. **Moderators:** **Sukesh Aghara**, *University of Massachusetts, Lowell* **Mark Riley**, *University of Nebraska–Lincoln* **Speaker:** **Don Millard**, *Head of the Engineering Directorate, National Science Foundation*
9:45am – 10:45am Salon BC	**Session 11: Faculty Development and Mentoring Across the Career Stages** The panel will cover faculty development programs for early, mid-, and senior faculty at various institutions. **Moderators:** **Michael Keller**, *The University of Tulsa* **Suzanne Shontz**, *The University of Kansas* **Speakers:** **Chris Frey**, *Associate Dean for Research and Infrastructure, North Carolina State University* **Jane Grande-Allen**, *Senior Associate Dean and Professor of Bioengineering, Rice University* **Suzanne Shontz**, *Associate Dean for Graduate and Online Education, The University of Kansas*

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

10:45am – 12pm Salon BC	**Session 12: Early-Stage Faculty Development Programs** Best practices for early career faculty development, such as seed grants, writing workshops, start-up package management, proposal bootcamps, CAREER Award, and similar development. **Moderator:** **Suzanne Shontz**, *The University of Kansas* **Speakers:** **Emily Hunt**, *Dean of Engineering, West Texas A&M University* **John Verbancouer**, *Senior Associate Dean for Research, Michigan State University*
12pm – 12:15pm Salon BC	**Closing Remarks** **John Coulter**, *ERC Chair, Lehigh University*

ASEE and the RLI planning committee would like to thank our sponsor for their generous contribution.



McAllister & Quinn

2026 RLI

ASEE
AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR ENGINEERING EDUCATION

Host Sponsor UNC Charlotte

ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition 2026

Engineering Education Where Legends Take Flight and Innovation Races Forward

June 21–24, 2026 | Charlotte Convention Center, NC

Early Registration Rate Closes April 8, 2026

Keynote Speaker

Kelvin K. Droegemeier, Ph.D.

Professor of Atmospheric Science and Special Advisor to the Chancellor for Science and Policy, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Kelvin K. Droegemeier is a professor of atmospheric science and Special Advisor to the Chancellor for Science and Policy at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

He previously served as the University of Oklahoma's vice president for research and founded and served as director of the Sasaki Institute, which fostered the development and application of knowledge, policy, and advanced technology for societal impact. He was also chair of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities' Council on Research Policy and Graduate Education (now the Council on Research).

Dr. Drogemeier's federal science and policy leadership roles include serving on the National Science Board and directing the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. He was also acting director of the National Science Foundation for two and a half months. At the state level, he was appointed to the Oklahoma Governor's Science and Technology Council and served as Cabinet Secretary of Science and Technology.

Speakers

Anthony M. Boccanfuso, Ph.D.

President and CEO, University-Industry Demonstration Partnership

Anthony M. (Tony) Boccanfuso is Chief Executive of UIDP, leading its mission to strengthen collaboration among companies, universities, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations. Under his leadership, UIDP has become a globally respected authority on the tactics and strategies that shape effective university-industry partnerships.

Dr. Boccanfuso developed the concept that led to the creation of UI Collab, UIDP's global consulting practice dedicated to optimizing research and innovation enterprises. He also conceptualized what is now the Strengthen and Modernize University-Industry Partnerships Initiative (SAMI) to reimagine and advance cross-sector engagement.

With more than 30 years of experience across academic, government, industry, and nonprofit environments, Dr. Boccanfuso is recognized for his deep expertise in maximizing the impact of cross-sector partnerships. He recently co-edited the handbook *University-Industry Collaboration* with Randy Hall, former chief research officer at the University of Southern California.

Rich Carter, Ph.D.

Professor of Chemistry, Oregon State University

Rich Carter's technical expertise is in multistep organic synthesis and reaction development, and he has authored over 100 publications and holds multiple patents.

Dr. Carter works with OSU's Research Office in the role of Faculty Lead for Innovation Excellence. This position supports faculty interests in innovation and entrepreneurship (I&E). Dr. Carter's interest in the intersection of academy and industry originated from his successful cofounding of chemical manufacturing company Valliscor. He is the PI of an NSF-funded initiative to facilitate a national conversation on ensuring that academic incentives such as promotion and tenure (P&T) value I&E and reward broader societal impacts. This initiative led to the creation of the Promotion & Tenure - Innovation & Entrepreneurship (PTIE) effort, which involves over 65 institutions and numerous national stakeholder organizations nationally and has resulted in a comprehensive set of recommendations for reform in promotion and tenure. Dr. Carter previously served as Chemistry Department Chair at OSU.

Speakers

Gavin Clingham, J.D.

Principal, Mortar Strategies

Gavin Clingham is principal with Mortar Strategies, a full-service public affairs firm based in Washington, DC. Mr. Clingham brings two decades of experience engaging in public policy advocacy at the federal and state levels to help corporations, non-profit organizations, municipalities and institutions of higher education pursue their policy objectives. He has a comprehensive understanding of the legislative and regulatory processes, having served as Legislative Director for a senior member of the US House Committee on Appropriations. He earned his J.D. from the Boston University School of Law.

Kevin Cooke, Ph.D.

Assistant Vice President, Research Policy, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

Kevin Cooke is the Assistant Vice President, Research Policy at the APLU. He works with members of the APLU Council on Research (COR) to understand policy impacts to member campuses and develop strategy in response to federal government policies and regulations. These lessons are shared to promote best practices for the administration of university research operations. Dr. Cooke is the PI of the CENTRAL project, charting the skills and career paths to senior research leadership, and oversees the analysis of the 2025 APLU Decadal Survey of Senior Research Officers and Their Responsibilities.

Prior to joining the APLU, Dr. Cookie was selected as an AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow to work at the National Science Foundation. While at the NSF, he was hosted in the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research program. Dr. Cooke earned his Ph.D. in astrophysical sciences and technology from the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Speakers

Chris Frey, Ph.D.

Associate Dean for Research and Infrastructure, North Carolina State University

Chris Frey is the Associate Dean for Research and Infrastructure of the College of Engineering and the Glenn E. and Phyllis J. Futrell Distinguished University Professor of Environmental Engineering at NC State.

Dr. Frey's research focuses on measurement and modeling of human exposure to air pollution, vehicle emissions, and probabilistic and sensitivity analysis methods. He has led over 70 research studies and published over 150 peer-reviewed journal papers.

From 2021 to 2024, Dr. Frey served at the US Environmental Protection Agency, initially as Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science Policy and subsequently as the Senate-confirmed Assistant Administrator for Research and Development. He led the Office of Research and Development, overseeing an annual budget of over $500 million.

Dr. Frey's extensive professional service has included chairing EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) and lead authorship of guidance by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change regarding uncertainty in greenhouse gas emission inventories.

Jane Grande-Allen, Ph.D.

Isabel Cameron Professor of Bioengineering and Senior Associate Dean of Engineering and Computing, Rice University

Jane Grande-Allen is the Isabel Cameron Professor of Bioengineering and Senior Associate Dean of Engineering and Computing at Rice University. Dr. Grande-Allen received a BA in mathematics and biology from Transylvania University in 1991 and a Ph.D. in bioengineering from the University of Washington in 1998. After postdoctoral research in biomedical engineering at the Cleveland Clinic, she joined Rice University in 2003. Dr. Grande-Allen is a Fellow of AIMBE, IAMBE, BMES, AAAS, AHA, and the Society for Experimental Mechanics. Her professional service includes the Board of Directors and Executive Board for BMES (where she is also President-Elect), Society for Experimental Mechanics, Heart Valve Society, and ISACB.

Speakers

Nathan Kahl

Director of Communications and Public Relations, George Mason University

Nathan Kahl is the Director of Communications for Media and Public Relations in George Mason University's College of Engineering and Computing. Mr. Kahl promotes the college's brand and image in alignment with the university's. He provides key messaging and positioning through multi-channel communications, marketing, and branding. He serves as the primary contact point for media and public relations for the college.

Luis Maldonado

Vice President for Government Relations and Policy Analysis, American Association of State Colleges and Universities

Luis Maldonado was appointed Vice President for Government Relations and Policy Analysis at AASCU in 2019. He aids the president of AASCU by directing and coordinating activities that advance the mission of the association, serving as the direct liaison with government officials, federal agencies, and other educational organizations to develop policies and positions that support regional comprehensive state colleges and universities. Mr. Maldonado has more than 25 years of combined experience in government relations and advocacy efforts with various organizations in the Washington, DC, region. He has worked in advocacy for three nonprofit organizations, most recently with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities; in two former positions that included serving in a legislative affairs capacity and as chief advocacy officer; and in senior advocacy positions. Mr. Maldonado has a master's degree from the University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus, and a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Speakers

Forrest Masters, Ph.D.

Kearney Dean of Engineering, Oregon State University

Prior to joining Oregon State University as the Kearney Dean of Engineering, Forrest Masters held multiple leadership positions at the University of Florida, including founding one of seven natural hazards engineering research facilities in the NSF Natural Hazards Engineering Research Infrastructure program; serving as Associate Dean for Research and Facilities for seven years; leading strategic initiatives in the Office of Research as an Assistant Vice President; and serving as Interim Dean of the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering from 2023 to 2025. He has received support from more than 60 contracts and grants from state, federal, and private sources, including the NSF CAREER award. Dr. Masters has been highly active with the ASEE Engineering Research Council, having served on its Board of Directors and taught at the Research Leadership Institute.

Don Millard, Ph.D.

Head of the Engineering Directorate, National Science Foundation

Don Millard is Head of the Engineering Directorate (ENG) at the NSF. Previous NSF roles include Deputy Assistant Director and Division Director. Dr. Millard has been involved with the Advanced Technology Education, Math and Science Partnership, and Transforming Undergraduate Education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math programs. He also helped launch the EDU Core Research and the Innovation Corps (I-Corps) programs. Prior to joining NSF, Dr. Millard was a faculty member in Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's Electrical, Computer, and Systems Department and directed several RPI research centers.

Dr. Millard's research interests include electronics design and manufacturing, electrical testing/evaluation methodologies, semiconductor fabrication, electronic media development, information technology, and engineering education. He is the creator of the Mobile Studio project, which enables students to perform experiments that use an oscilloscope, function generator, digital control, and power supply and learn anytime, anyplace. Dr. Millard holds a patent for the development of a laser-induced, plasma-based non-contact electrical pathway.

Speakers

Vahid Motevalli, Ph.D.

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Quentin Berg Chair of Engineering and Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg, The Capital College

Vahid Motevalli is a tenured professor of mechanical engineering at Penn State, Harrisburg, serving as Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (VCAA). He also holds the Quentin Berg Chair of Engineering. As VCAA, he is the Chief Academic Officer for the second-largest campus of Penn State with about 230 faculty in five schools that offer nearly 70 academic degrees.

Dr. Motevalli has 40 years of teaching, research, and administrative experience in academia, government, and industry. He has conducted interdisciplinary research and education throughout his career and considers collaboration a cornerstone of his leadership approach. Serving as the PI or co-PI, he has led externally funded research activities totaling nearly $19 million to date. He has over 100 technical publications, in addition to reports, presentations, and invited talks, and has directed over 36 graduate students. His professional experience outside academia includes work at national and government laboratories (NIST, NRL), as an ASME Congressional Fellow, and consulting.

Pamela Norris, Ph.D.

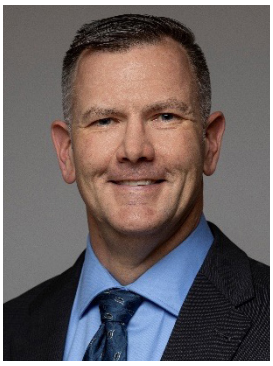
Dean of Engineering, University of Delaware

Pamela Norris is Dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Delaware and previously served as Vice Provost for Research at the George Washington University.

An interdisciplinary scientist, Dr. Norris holds patents for innovative thermal management techniques for jet-blast detectors, landing pads for next-generation aircraft carriers, and applications of aerogels.

Dr. Norris was honored with the Society of Women Engineers Distinguished Engineering Educator Award “for enduring, positive influence on students’ lives as a gifted teacher, mentor, and role model; and for promoting greater diversity in STEM higher education.” She was also elected an honorary member of the ASME for “international leadership in nano, micro and macroscale thermal science and engineering research; for tireless efforts to advance diversity in STEM fields; and for demonstrating engineering excellence as an outstanding mentor for students and faculty.” She previously served as ASEE’s Vice President of Institutional Councils and Chair of the Engineering Research Council.

Speakers



Brian J. Novoselich, Ph.D.

CEO and Executive Director, American Society for Engineering Education

Brian J. Novoselich is the CEO and Executive Director of ASEE, having recently retired from the US Army after 30 years of active-duty service. Dr. Novoselich taught for over 16 years in the Department of Civil and Mechanical Engineering at the US Military Academy at West Point, earning the academic rank of professor of engineering education. He served in administrative positions such as Director of Strategic Plans and Assessment for the Superintendent, Director of Strategic Effects, and Director of West Point's Center for Innovation and Engineering. His Army career included operational and combat deployments to Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Dr. Novoselich has served in various leadership roles within the ASEE Finance Committee, Mechanical Engineering Division, Engineering Leadership Development Division, and Military and Veterans Division. He is a licensed professional engineer in the commonwealth of Virginia.

Christi Patton Luks, Ph.D.

2025–26 ASEE President, Curators' Distinguished Teaching Professor and Associate Chair of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering at the Missouri University of Science and Technology

Christi Patton Luks is the 2025–26 President of the American Society for Engineering Education and previously served as Vice President of Member Affairs, Vice President of Professional Interest Councils (PICs), chair of PIC I, chair of Zone III, and chair of the Chemical Engineering Division of ASEE.

Dr. Luks is a Curators' Distinguished Teaching Professor and Associate Chair in the Department of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering at Missouri S&T. She has a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering and M.S. in Applied Mathematics from the University of Tulsa and a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Texas A&M. Prior to joining Missouri S&T, Dr. Luks was Applied Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering at the University of Tulsa.

Dr. Luks was elected as a fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) in recognition of her contributions to the chemical engineering field.

Speakers

Wil V. Srubar III, Ph.D.

Professor and Associate Dean for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, University of Colorado Boulder

Wil V. Srubar III is a professor of civil and architectural engineering and materials science and engineering at the University of Colorado Boulder, where he also serves as the inaugural Associate Dean for Innovation & Entrepreneurship for the College of Engineering and Applied Science. Dr. Srubar received his Ph.D. from Stanford University in 2013 in civil and environmental engineering and materials science and engineering. His interdisciplinary materials science research integrates biology with polymer science and cement chemistry to create low-carbon, biomimetic, and living material technologies for the built environment. Dr. Srubar is the recipient of the 2023 American Ceramics Society (ACerS) Cements Division Early Career Award and a 2020 NSF CAREER Award, and he was named a Top 25 Newsmaker of 2022 by *Engineering News-Record*. He is a cofounder of three start-up companies, Prometheus Materials, Minus Materials, and Aureus Earth, that are commercializing low-carbon material technologies for the built environment.

Nathan Tichenor, Ph.D.

Chief Research Officer and Director, Hypersonic Facilities, George H.W. Bush Combat Development Complex and Research Associate Professor, Aerospace Engineering Department, Texas A&M University

Nathan Tichenor has over 15 years of experience leading multidisciplinary teams conducting innovative research and developing critical technologies in close partnership with government, national labs, and industry. Dr. Tichenor leads the research enterprise at the Bush Combat Development Complex and the development and operation of the national-asset class Ballistic, Aero-Optics and Materials Range.

Prior to joining the Texas A&M faculty, Dr. Tichenor served over six years as Director of Aerospace Sciences for a small R&D company, focusing on innovative solutions for the defense industry and the US government. He is an AIAA Associate Fellow and chair of the AIAA Fluid Dynamics Technical Committee, where he helps to shape opportunities for future technologies and the development of the next generation of engineers.

Dr. Tichenor's research focuses are experimental aerothermodynamics, hypersonics, computational fluid dynamics, ground testing, and diagnostics. He is passionate about developing engineers to become leaders who make a decisive impact.

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