The New England's Section's Major STEM Event on March 10, 2018

The New England Section hosted an estimated 950 K-12 kids, parents and teachers at the *Rockets and Flight* event in the MIT Museum's Science on Saturday series on March 10, 2018 at MIT's Kresge auditorium. The intensity of the student response was magical. Several of the 65 volunteers put on a one-hour presentation in the auditorium. The students explored our 24 display tables in the lobby for the second hour. This event was the focus of the Section's 2017-2018 activities.

The presentations started with Lt. Col. Tucker Hamilton, the AIAA's STEM lead who traveled from Edwards AFB for a Distinguished Lecture and this event. Tucker gave the keynote presentation, impressing the audience with his entrance dressed in his flight suit. Other presenters were student branch members from MIT who demonstrated a wind tunnel built just for the event, students from Northeastern University, UMass Lowell and the MIT Graduate Women in Aerospace Engineering (GWAE). One volunteer helped kids operate a NASA Mars Lander app.

The volunteers at the 24 display tables distributed 150 AIAA balsa wood model airplanes, 100 protractors and many paper helicopters and airplanes. The tables were designed to interest kids from kindergarten through high school with themes covering: AIAA model airplanes, Apollo space suits, biomedical payloads, composite structures, cubesats, Design/Build/Fly aircraft, electric propulsion, exoplanets, jet engine, lunar crater mining, orbits and gravity, paper airplanes, paper helicopters, parachutes, phoenix mars lander, radars, robotic space spheres, rockets, quadcopters, spacecraft dynamics, space helmets, space suits, straw rockets, trigonometry, and the wind tunnel.

Four volunteers made significant contributions: Yari Golden-Castano, Paula do Vale Pereira, Martina Stadler, and Joe Vornehm. They were honored at the Section's Honors and Awards Banquet on April 24. Contact the New England Section using AIAA Engage for more information.