WOMEN OF AERONAUTICS & ASTRONAUTICS

empowering women of aerospace one giant leap at a time
An international coalition of female-led student groups from aerospace engineering degree programs

- **19 chapters** across the U.S., *including 7 of the top 10 Aerospace Engineering programs* in the U.S.
- Launched first international branch, WoAA India
- **50+ members/group, >500 members in the US** (including students, young professional alumni, faculty, and other professionals in AIAA)
- Newly formed committee under AIAA’s Integration and Outreach Division

Professional development and networking opportunities:

- AIAA SciTech 2019 & 2020 mentoring sessions and panels
- AIAA Propulsion & Energy outreach seminar for middle school students in the region
- K-12 outreach and an international panel featuring women in aerospace at the International Aeronautical Congress 2019
- 20+ virtual events for all members in summer of 2020 alone, many posted to YouTube

**Who we are:**

- **Professional & Technical Development** – Build network of industry partners and mentors, promote female technical leadership
- **Expansion** – Expand to 30+ universities internationally and over 1000 members by December 2020
- **Outreach** – Reach gender parity in Aerospace Engineering enrollment via coordinated K12 and community college engagement
WoAA Structure

WoAA Leadership
- Chair: Alex Straub
- Vice Chair: Julia Di
- Secretary: Rosemary Davidson

WoAA alumni board

Professional Development
Chair: Annika Rollock

Technical Development
Chair: Matt Marcus

Outreach
Chair: Sanjana Tewathia

Member Advancement/Awards
Chair: Sarah Gomez

Expansion Chapter
University Chair: Harshini Sivakumar
Professional Chair: Laura Zaidenberg
How will WoAA increase AIAA membership?

- One of the primary goals of WoAA is to encourage attendance at conferences and other large AIAA events
  - Having the requirement, before even attending a meeting, to join AIAA might push away potential WoAA members
  - Once members are involved in WoAA and see the benefits of attending conferences, we feel there will be a greater overall increase in AIAA student membership

- WoAA aims to support the university to young professional pipeline
  - By requiring alumni and professional WoAA members to hold AIAA membership, we can help increase the number of young professionals, especially women, involved in AIAA
WoAA amplifies AIAA chapter activities at several schools:

• Chapters co-host several events per year & meet regularly to plan
• Opportunity for more students in leadership
• Ensures students can attend more events and that there are a greater variety of events

UMD AIAA Student Board Member (2018): “Once WIAA and AIAA started working together [the past 3 semesters], AIAA GBM attendance went from averaging about 12 people including the board members to averaging 60 people.”

GaTech: “Women in aero was needed in our department to promote participation with large organizations such as AIAA or other smaller clubs by creating a support network for our women students”

Purdue: “Our goal is to help [younger women] realize they don’t have to be intimidated and can be a part of the aerospace community.”

UMich: “[WoAA] provides a community for women to go to AIAA meetings. [Attending together helps women] feel more comfortable feel more comfortable ... going to them.”
WoAA Goals

WoAA Organizational Pillars

• Industry Networking
  Networking nights, facility tours, industry speakers, conference attendance

• Technical Development
  Technical workshops, exam review, graduate school info sessions

• Outreach
  Mentorship between graduate and undergraduate students, pen pals with K-12 students, FIRST Robotics volunteering, high school outreach days

• Member Advancement & Awards
  Scholarship & fellowship announcements

• Expansion
  • Initiate WoAA chapters nationally & internationally

What WoAA can uniquely offer

• Female leadership (though not exclusive)

• Focus on professional and technical development

• Recruitment of female students into the field
  • Events for K-12 students to learn about aerospace
  • 100% increase in female enrollment in freshman aerospace class at UMD

• Safe space for all gender minorities; changes visibility of members
WoAA and AIAA

AIAA

“Product/Technical Development”
- Student Competitions (e.g. Design Build Fly)
- Professional Society with Technical Focus
- AIAA Student Conferences
- Large-scale events for entire department

WoAA

“People Development”
- Mentorship
- Professional Society with Diversity & Inclusion Focus
- Events featuring female engineers and speakers
- External / K12 outreach, specifically focused on minority populations

- Speaker Events
- Industry Receptions
- Department-wide Social events
- Technical training
WOMEN OF AERONAUTICS & ASTRONAUTICS

empowering women of aerospace one giant leap at a time