

Tony Williams, ESEP

Vision



I want to commend Steven Dam for his service as the third INCOSE Director for the Americas, and wish him the best as he needs to step down. I support his goals, especially:

- Supporting INCOSE Growth objective through chapter membership initiative
- Supporting INCOSE Growth objective through support of struggling chapters and chapter partnerships to maintain momentum and support involvement in INCOSE

Building on these goals, as INCOSE Director for the Americas, I would set three priorities:

First, maintaining an up-to-date understanding of the needs and concerns of the America's chapters as voiced by their leaders. I've spent most of the last decade on the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter's Board of Directors. Over that time, we have had very successful years and ones where we struggled to create enthusiasm. INCOSE is rich with success stories, energetic volunteers, proven formulae for success, including many solutions that are virtually 'out of the box' to implement. For a struggling chapter, even the time investment to research these solutions maybe be a stretch given limited volunteers. By understanding the needs, I intend to help those chapters that are a little low on their energy succeed and grow, while also facilitating concerns for the successful groups. I'd like to be a part of sharing the practices that make chapters succeed with those that are struggling. Some initial thoughts for supporting struggling chapters include:

- Sharing Chapter program announcements, and use of web meetings to enable remote participation.
- Establishing mentor/protégé relationships between chapters, allowing easy transfer of lessons learned and 'just in time' advice, as well as shared activities.
- Regional partnering – consider the success of the Great Lakes Regional conference, now in it's 11th year!

As a second, highly coupled priority, we will focus on the use of technology as a force multiplier to enhance collaboration, not just within a chapter but between chapters. As have many chapters, the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter (TGCC) has had great success in the use of technology to establish multiple meeting locations in the Houston area, and also to develop partnerships with other chapters. TGCC routinely opens chapter meetings to a number of other chapters (via web meetings and telecons). Within our ~50 chapters in the Western Hemisphere, we produce over 300 chapter meeting programs on a huge diversity of topics. This represents a great untapped wealth - if we can simply find ways to leverage, share, and/or re-use these programs.

And third - while I understand and support INCOSE's strategic vision of international growth, if elected, my focus as INCOSE Director for the Americas (naturally) be the needs and goals of the nearly 50 Chapters in the Western hemisphere. While INCOSE continues to grow internationally, my role as Director will be to invest my time and energy on our Chapters in the America's Sector and to find ways to better advocate for those needs and interests. As a related initiative, we note that outside the US, nearly all chapters also exist as the national SE society for that nation, yet in the US, we have no single voice advocating for Systems Engineering. If elected, I'll lead a study assessing a possible US national voice, including:

- Capturing stakeholder concerns, including the US-based chapters, international chapters, and outside entities.
- Defining alternative constructs to address the stakeholder needs set. Assuming we find a stakeholder consensus for increased national voice and representation, how can the US Chapters organize to provide that voice while continuing strong engagement internationally? I believe numerous options exist for a 'win-win' solution.
- Defining evaluation criteria and evaluating these alternative constructs.

- Coordinating our results and defining, and then implementing, an action plan (as needed).

I've enjoyed my roles with INCOSE over the years, and I'm excited to see our continued growth and global success. As INCOSE Director for the Americas, I will strive to continue that global success trajectory by working to make the America's sector chapters more successful and robust. To most INCOSE members, the Chapters are their primary interface with the global INCOSE community. Through healthier Chapters, we improve the experience for our membership, which will in turn spur additional membership growth – a true Win/Win scenario.

Biography

I joined INCOSE in 2008. I've served in the local chapter in a number positions, including twice serving as Chapter President. In 2016 I led the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter to its first ever Gold Chapter Award. I am playing a central role in planning the Inaugural TGCC Conference on Collaboration between SE in Oil and Gas and Aerospace, serving as Technical Chair. Several years back, I led a 15 week breakfast seminar for CSEP training, and I've been a chapter speaker several times.

I'm an ESEP and Certification Application Reviewer (Provisional), and the coordinator for the Jacobs INCOSE MOA. I've also served as a Technical Paper reviewer for IS 2015 and 2016, and I helped facilitate the Practitioner Challenge at IS 2016 where I also served as a Session Char.

At Jacobs Engineering, I'm the Chief Engineer, Systems Engineering and Integration, developing flight systems for the International Space Station (ISS) and Orion. I also serve as Jacobs Engineering Project Manager for the Orion Ascent Abort-2 test. Previously, I was the Jacobs Project Manager for the ISS Simplified Aid for EVA Rescue (SAFER), a complex safety-critical jetpack that provides final self-rescue opportunity for a stranded astronaut who has drifted from the ISS. Prior assignments include serving as a Lecturer at the University of Houston where I taught a Master's level Systems Engineering series, and as a Senior Associate at Booz Allen Hamilton, with roles ranged from launch mission assurance studies to development of exploitation tools for multi- and hyper-spectral imagery to modeling of satellite constellation replacement needs.

I'm a retired Colonel in the Air Force Reserve including active duty tour as Chief, Space Command and Control Division and Commander, Space Operations Squadron at Air Force Space Command in 2005. I'm a PMI Certified Project Management Professional.

Additional professional engagements include:

- Associate Fellow, AIAA
- Member, AIAA Systems Engineering Committee on Standards
- Technical Chairman, AIAA Space 2008 and 2015 Conference and Exposition
- Past Deputy Director, AIAA Space and Missile Group
- Past Chairman, Space Transportation Technical Committee (AIAA)
- Member and Past Chairman, Space Systems Technical Committee (AIAA)