

# Auburn's Student-Led Aerospace Movement

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# AGENDA

1. Auburn's Aerospace Opportunity Gap
2. Our Branch's Student-Led Solution
3. The Barriers to Success
4. The Impact
5. A Blueprint for the Future
6. Final Takeaways

# AUBURN'S AEROSPACE OPPORTUNITY GAP

- Over 660 aerospace students had **no unique career fair**, despite being the 3rd largest major in the College of Engineering.
- Auburn's general engineering career fairs **failed to attract major aerospace companies**, leaving students without meaningful connections.
  - Out of 130 companies attending the Spring 2024 General Engineering Career Fair, **less than 10% were hiring aerospace engineers**.
- Facing long wait lines with minimal opportunities for direct aerospace industry engagement, **aerospace students at Auburn's general career fairs suffered**.

Companies Recruiting For

## AEROSPACE ENGINEERING

Samuel Ginn College of Engineering Career Fair

Monday, February 17 | 11am - 4pm | Brown-Kopel Grand Hall

Commonwealth Fusion Systems

Honda ★★

IERUS Technologies

International Paper ★★

Marmon Holdings ★

MGA Research Corporation

Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR)

Norfolk Naval Shipyard

Nucor Steel

RoviSys

SCI Technology

U.S. Navy

Career Fair Star Sponsors

| C12E Sponsors ★

| 100+ Women Strong Sponsors ★



# AIAA'S STUDENT-LED SOLUTION

- **We refused to accept the status quo.** Auburn's AIAA Branch took action, launching an industry-specific career event from the ground up.
- **We did not wait for opportunities—we built them** through relentless outreach and strategic networking with some of the top aerospace companies.
- Over **85% of aerospace jobs and internships** are a result of networking, and Aerospace Industry Day was designed to facilitate these invaluable connections.



# OVERCOMING BARRIERS

- The **administration was initially skeptical**, and we faced many logistical challenges that threatened the success of the event.
- Instead of backing down, **we turned resistance into opportunity**- presenting data-driven proposals and demonstrating the event's immense value.
  - Industry leaders such as **SpaceX, Blue Origin, Airbus, and Lockheed Martin** showed immediate interest.
- Our persistence paid off when **the university president endorsed our vision for Aerospace Industry Day**, making it an official event.



# MEASURABLE IMPACT

- **15+ leading aerospace companies attended**, including SpaceX, Airbus, Lockheed Martin, and NASA, signaling the industry's interest in Auburn's talent.
- **Over 300 students** from Auburn and Tuskegee University gained **direct access to their dream companies**, transforming their futures.
- At least **20% of students in attendance** made connections that resulted in an internship, co-op, or job offer.



# A BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE

- Aerospace Industry Day **set a new precedent at Auburn University**—student-driven initiatives can fill any critical gaps in career development.
- This model is **scalable and replicable**, empowering student branches at other universities to take charge of their own industry engagement.
- The success of this event proves that **students are the architects of change**, not administrators.

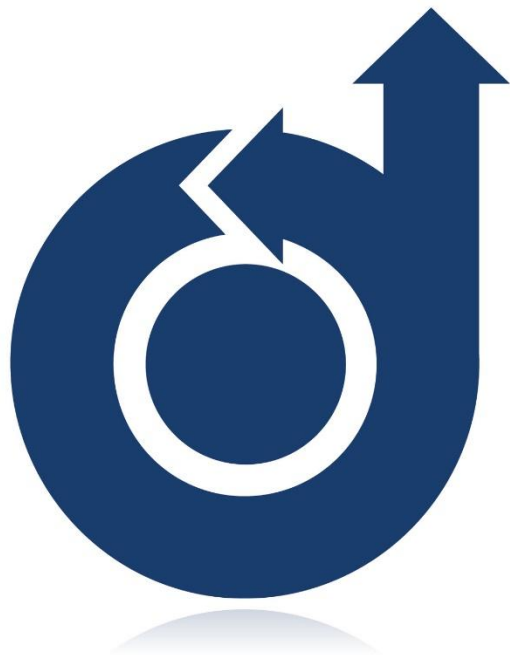


# FINAL TAKEAWAYS

- **Be the force that drives change** at your University.
- If the opportunity does not exist—**create it.**
- **The aerospace industry is not just looking for engineers- they are looking for leaders.** Step up, innovate, and make an impact.
- Aerospace Industry Day started as an idea—now it is a legacy. But the question stands: **what will you create?**







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