

MICHIGAN AEROSPACE INDUSTRY NEWSLETTER



REFLECTING ON A PROSPEROUS 2023

Welcome to 2024!

Now that the holidays are becoming a distant memory, we could not be more excited about everything on the horizon for the new year. However, we also feel this is an appropriate time for reflection. Looking back on the past year, it is rewarding to see how much we have grown collectively as an organization. The strides we made together to strengthen the aerospace industry in Michigan makes it all worthwhile. I especially enjoyed connecting with so many of you at AeroOne 2023. Plans are already underway for AeroOne 2024 and a committee from our executive board of directors are hard at work to create an agenda that will provide additional value enabling conference attendees to connect, learn and grown in the industry.

In 2023, we turned the page on new chapter through the establishment of the AIAM Charitable Foundation. The foundation's work is dedicated to serve two critical needs of the industry. First, to create a diverse talent pipeline that includes K-12 schools through postsecondary institutions with a particular focus for individuals in underserved and rural communities. These efforts will be supported through scholarship opportunities in certificate/degree programs, school-based competitions, summer camps, afterschool programs, and more.

The second area of focus is to assist companies in better understanding the regulatory environment and complexity required to be certified and successfully compete in the industry. Again, an intentional strategy will be to connect with companies located in under-resourced communities to create access and opportunities for those who have historically missed out in the past. Ultimately, the AIAM Foundation will enable Michigan's aerospace industry in fulfilling its full potential, which in turn will strengthen local economies across the state and provide a spectrum of opportunities for individuals and companies.

The AIAM event program created an environment that brought over 700 people together representing hundreds of companies from more than 20 states and an international audience. Attendees connected and collaborated to brainstorm, and problem solve on current issues many business are facing today. Our event program continues to be a center piece for AIAM and its members to you guessed it...connect, learn and grow in the global aerospace industry!

The new year is getting off to an exciting start. The AIAM board of directors and our newly formed foundation board of directors will be holding the annual offsite meeting on January 25th. This year's meeting is being hosted by long-time AIAM member company, Metro Bolt & Fasteners. The day will conclude with our board and members networking at Little Caesar's Arena to see the Detroit Red Wings take on the Philadelphia Flyers.

On February 20th AIAM will be taking members to Lansing for the day to meet with state legislators and share the importance Michigan's aerospace industry has on our economy. Our annual golf outing is scheduled for June 17th and AeroOne 2024 will take place at The Royal Park Hotel in Rochester September 4th-6th. These events continue to grow and expand every year and something you will not want to miss! Be sure to check the event calendar on our website for more information on registration, exhibiting and sponsorships.

We truly appreciate the joy and blessings received in 2023 and the road to a prosperous 2024. Cheers to an exciting year ahead!

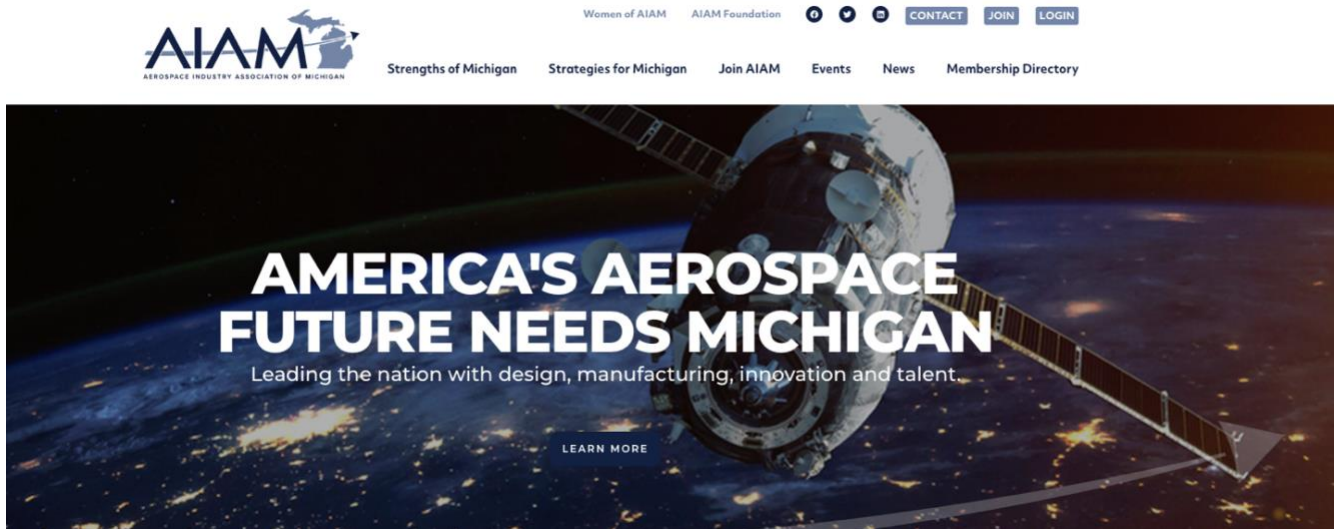
Warmest Regards,

Tony Vernaci
AIAM, President

Connect with AIAM:



AIAM'S NEW WEBSITE HAS LAUNCHED



Be sure to check out AIAM's bigger and better website! Our new site promotes the significance and vitality of Michigan aerospace and its importance to the future of our country. You'll find information on Michigan's strengths in advancing innovation, energizing core sectors, and building and sustaining a talent pipeline, as well as AIAM's strategies for accelerating Michigan's aerospace success. You'll also find more information on Women of AIAM and our new AIAM Foundation. Visit aiamnow.com to explore the new site.

CYBERSECURITY PREBREACH PRE-BREACH PREPAREDNESS AND LATEST THREATS WEBINAR



Cybercrime has increasingly become one of the most serious threats companies are facing today. The risk of lost revenues, disruption to business processes or theft of customer and employee data is significant. AIAM recognizes the challenge this presents to our industry and hosted a virtual free live panel discussion to hear from cybersecurity experts Chad Paalman, Jacob Koering, Rick Snyder, Don White, and John Kennedy. [Watch the recording here](#)

MICHIGAN GIRLS INSPIRED FOR FUTURE CAREERS IN AEROSPACE



Pictured are: WAIAM Co-Chair, Lissa Barron, Director of Communications at Barron Industries (far right), along with Barron Industries Process Engineers Kaylee Konwinski and Lewis Marshall with the 1st place team and 'honorable mention' team in the 2023 Michigan Girls Future Flight Challenge.

As the aerospace industry strengthens and grows in Michigan, it is increasingly vital to encourage young girls to consider future STEM careers. The Michigan Girls Future Flight Challenge allows girls to see into the industry and gain early mentorship from women in the field. The competition challenged girls across the state to creatively solve a unique aerospace problem.

Congratulations to the following winners:

1st – Team Galactic Girls: Delsea Hall and Symphonie Zhou from Beverly Hills, MI

Team Galactic Girls focused on developing an AidWing drone to deliver food, water, and medicine to disaster zones faster than traditional transportation could. Their sustainable drone design uses solar panels for power to help people in need while also limiting the impact on the planet.

2nd Place - Team Arctic Puffin: Amelia Knapp, Juliet Knapp, Hannah Wilson, Addy Snyder and Genevieve Cadeau from L'Anse, MI

Team Arctic Puffin designed a drone to clean up garbage on Great Lakes beaches using a net and sensors. Their drone is solar powered and takes the garbage to an incinerator which then reuses the ash to help make recycled material for roads.

3rd Place - Team Galaxy Girls: Skylar Sullivan and Clara VanHousin from Grand Ledge, MI

Team Galaxy Girls designed a sustainable drone that repels pollinators from plants that have been sprayed with pesticides by dropping packets of cloves and garlic around the plants. Their sustainable drone uses rechargeable batteries with temperature sensors for safe packet delivery.

Honorable Mention – Team SkyWalkers: Meher Basu, Manjiri Gangele, Parishii Jain, Aadhya Mutyala, and Shreya Mekala, students at Gallimore Elementary School in Canton, MI

Team SkyWalkers designed a drone that uses thermal sensing and artificial intelligence to detect illegal deforestation, poaching, and any animals or people that are injured. Their sustainable prototype uses solar panels and a rechargeable battery.



Pictured are: Kim Dunnebacke of L'Anse Manufacturing, and the 2nd place team members Amelia Knapp, Juliet Knapp, Hannah Wilson, Addy Snyder and Genevieve Cadeau

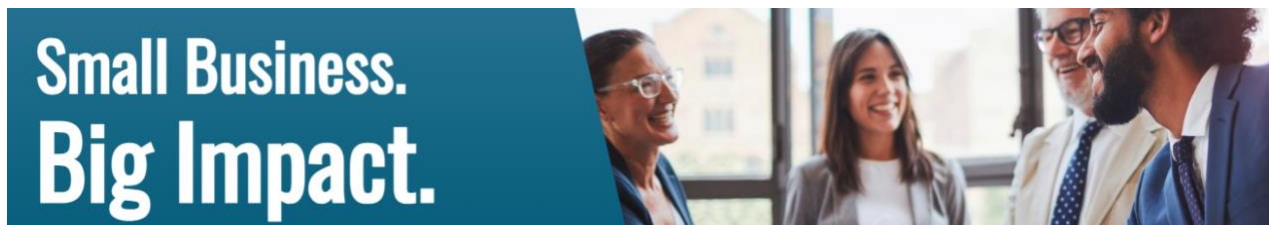
Thank you to the following Flight Challenge sponsors:

Global Technology Associates, Woodward, Array of Engineers, I.F. Metalworks, Barron Industries, Autocam Medical, Liebherr, and Mavens of Manufacturing.

Special thanks to the following mentors:

Martha Neubauer of AeroDynamic Advisory; Stacy Paul, Karmyn VonEhr, and Jessica Ricksgers of Array of Engineers; Sara McMurray, Genevieve Wisby, Ashley Werkema, Katie White, Anna Burgess, and Sydney Butler of Autocam Medical Devices; Lissa Barron of Barron Industries; Sophia McGuinness of Boeing; Audra Thurston and Amber Dwyer of Calumet Electronics; Aida Dismondy of Dismondy PC; Meagan Connell of Eaton Aerospace; Jessica Martin of Gulfstream; Kim Dunnebacke of L'Anse Manufacturing; Annisha Wazed of L3Harris Technology; Amy Rossi of M&B Rossi Consulting; Joslyn Gomoll and Carla Dixon of Mi-GSO | PCUBED; Amany Gonzalez of Nestle; Darby Thomason of Sartorius; Melissa Maxson of Stampede Die & Engineering; Angela Truskowski of Thierica Automation; Maria Reitz of University of Michigan; Michaela Lee of Weldaloy Specialty Forgings; and Rachel Plowman and Angela Kimber of Woodward.

DID YOU KNOW... AIAM MEMBERSHIPS INCLUDE A PREMIUM LEVEL SMALL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN MEMBERSHIP?



BENEFITS INCLUDE

Insurance Solutions to Attract and Retain Top Talent

SBAM is dedicated to bringing insurance solutions to your company, while saving you time, money, and reducing the hassles of offering employee benefit plans. Our affordable and flexible plans allow your company to offer a complete medical, dental, vision, life and disability package that will attract and retain talented employees that you need to build a successful team.

Small Group Health

- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network have plans to fit every small business budget.
- Choose from a variety of affordable group health plans from the strongest network of providers in Michigan.
- Our team helps you manage the enrollment, billing and claims so the administration of your plan is convenient and easy!

Life and Disability

- Group life and disability insurance products from Dearborn Life Insurance Company, which are offered as Specialty Benefits in cooperation with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, help provide a total benefit solution for sole proprietors and organization covering up to 99 employees.
- Flexible and affordable coverage for basic life, short-term disability and long-term disability.

Workers' Comp

- Participating in the SBAM workers' compensation program through Accident Fund not only saves you 5% up front but also pays you back!
- There is no minimum premium to qualify and Accident Fund offers convenient billing options and easy online claims reporting. They also offer an abundance of resources to help you create and maintain a safe, productive workplace.

Customer Service & Consolidated Billing

Our Harmony billing and enrollment team is just an email or phone call away to assist with claims, billing, enrollments, terminations, new ID card orders and more.

Additionally, premium payments for group health, dental and vision, group life and group disability, administration fees for COBRA and Section 125, FSA, HSA and HRA services will come on a single consolidated invoice from SBAM once per month.

This consolidated billing service allows you to make payment for SBAM services jointly (one check) and just as important, when you add or terminate an employee, you only need to communicate that once through our HIPAA secure Zix email. Not only can we guarantee a simple consolidated invoice, we're the only organization that has the capability to put Blue Cross and BCN premiums on the same invoice.



Connect with Sherry Bryan for any questions:

Sherry Bryan

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UNITED TECHNICAL INC NAMED 2023 EXCELLENCE IN WELDING AWARD WINNER

Congratulations to AIAM member, [United Technical Inc](#), for receiving the prestigious **2023 Excellence in Welding Award** from the [American Welding Society](#)'s Welding Equipment Manufacturers Committee (WEMCO)! This award recognizes their outstanding dedication and we are proud to see them make a big impact in the industry.

[Read the full details here.](#)



MEDC INCENTIVIZES CALUMET ELECTRONICS WITH \$7.5M TO HELP BUILD MUCH-NEEDED DOD TECHNOLOGY AND UPSKILL WORKERS



Calumet Electronics has been called upon by defense OEMs to pioneer packaged substrates critical to the semiconductor sector for aerospace and defense.

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) announced that they will support the project with \$7.5 million in incentives to enable the company's plans to stand up a package substrate manufacturing facility important to the semiconductor ecosystem. The project, which will create job growth, upskill existing employees, build a new facility, and purchase capital equipment, is expected to generate a total capital investment of up to \$51 million. As Calumet leadership works toward scaling its substrate production with training and technology, the company will continue to maintain its current lineup of products.

[Read the full press release here.](#)