



NASA's

GATEWAYS TO

BLUESKIES

RepAir | Advancing Aircraft Maintenance Competition

May 18-19, 2026

Hampton, Va

SPONSOR WELCOME MESSAGE



Steven Holtz

NASA Langley
Associate Project Manager,
University Innovation Project

Welcome to the fifth annual Gateways to Blue Skies Forum, and welcome to NASA Langley Research Center – the nation’s premier aeronautics laboratory. Established in 1917, Langley Research Center was our nation’s first aeronautics laboratory as part of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), which later became NASA. The center has been the home for critical aeronautics research, pioneering advancements in nearly all areas of aviation, from aircraft design, to safety, to high-speed flight. It’s a fitting location for our finalist teams, who have all demonstrated a strong commitment to innovation and improving the aviation industry. We are all looking forward to learning more about your ideas for improving aircraft maintenance! Though we recognize this is a competition, we also want you to have fun! Your dedication and hard work got you here, and now is the time to make the most of it. We encourage you to engage with other teams, network with NASA and industry, and soak in all the rich aeronautics history on your tour of NASA Langley. Above all, we want to congratulate each of you on being selected as a finalist. It is no small feat to make it to this stage of the competition. We hope you will ask questions, share insights, and take advantage of every opportunity presented throughout the forum. Finally, enjoy the experience and take pride in being part of a community dedicated to shaping the future of aviation.



FORUM GUIDELINES

Participation: Please review the Forum Agenda and be on time for all sessions. Participation in all Gateways to Blue Skies Competition Forum events is mandatory.

Personal Responsibility: You are responsible for your actions, and accountable to your school policies. During your free time, please be respectful of the hotel property and guests (i.e., no loud parties in your rooms). Any complaints may result in disqualification of the team and immediate dismissal from the competition.

Emergencies: For medical emergencies, call 911.

- Nearest Hospital: Sentara CarePlex, 3000 Coliseum Drive, Hampton Va., 23666
- Nearest Urgent Care: M.D. Express Urgent Care, 3321 W. Mercury Blvd, Hampton Va., 23666

NIA PROGRAM TEAM

Stacy Dees
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Shelley Spears
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NASA's 2026 Gateways to Blue Skies Agenda

AGENDA LEGEND

Events restricted to Judges & Staff are **GREEN**.
Events restricted to Paid Registrants (teams, judges, staff) are **BLUE**.

Sunday, May 17, 2026

- 4:30 – 5:30 PM** **Finalist Team Check-in**
Embassy Suites, Ballroom
1700 Coliseum Drive, Hampton VA 23666
- 5:30 – 7:00 PM** **Dinner & Networking Activity**
Embassy Suites, Ballroom
6 PM Networking activity begins

Monday, May 18, 2026

NASA Langley Research Center

Building 2102 (Integrated Engineering Services Building)

- 8:00 – 9:00 AM** **NASA Badge Pick-Up & On-Site Audio-Visual Check for Finalist Teams**
IESB 2102 | Reid Ballroom 2 & 3
- 8:30 – 9:00 AM** **Judges Pre-Forum Meeting**
IESB 2102 | Room 101
- 9:15 – 9:30 AM** **Welcome and Introductions**
- 9:35 – 10:20 AM** **Manhattan University**
A.E.R.I.S – Aircraft Enhanced Resilience and Intelligence Systems
Advisor: Bahareh Estejab
- 10:20 – 10:35 AM** **Morning Coffee & Snack Break – Reid 1**
- 10:35 – 11:20 AM** **South Dakota State University**
Surveying Platform and Inspection Device for Enclosed Regions (S.P.I.D.E.R)
Advisor: Todd Letcher
- 11:25 – 11:55 AM** **NASA's ARMD Presentation**
Robert (Bob) Pearce, ARMD Associate Administrator
- 11:55 AM – 12:55 PM** **Lunch – Reid 1**
- 12:55 – 1:40 PM** **Michigan State University**
Surface Evaluation Network for Tethered Inspection and Nondestructive Evaluation (SENTINEL)
Advisor: Vaibhav Srivastava
- 1:50 – 2:35 PM** **South Dakota State University**
Surface Preservation and Rust Killer (S.P.A.R.K.) Crawler
Advisor: Todd Letcher
- 2:35 – 2:50 PM** **Group Photo**
- 2:50 – 3:05 PM** **Afternoon Snack Break – Reid 1**

Monday, May 18, 2026 (cont'd)

- 3:05 – 3:50 PM** **University of California, Irvine**
AirShield: Aircraft Structural Health Intelligence for Evaluation and Lifecycle Detection
Advisor: Jacqueline Huynh
- 3:50 – 3:55 PM** **Announcements**
- 3:55 – 5:15 PM** **Poster Session – Day 1 Teams**
IESB 2102 | Foyer
- NLT 5:30 PM** **Depart IESB**
Guests must be off NASA by 6 PM

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

NASA Langley Research Center

Building 2102 (Integrated Engineering Services Building)

- 8:00 – 8:05 AM** **Morning Announcements**
IESB 2102 | Reid Ballroom 2 & 3
- 8:05 – 8:50 AM** **Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Daytona Beach with Cecil College Maryland**
Advancing Aircraft Maintenance, Smart Mechanic Glasses
Advisor: Claudia Ehringer Lucas
- 9:00 – 9:45 AM** **University of Georgia**
QuaSAR (Quantum Sensing Aerial Reporting)
Advisors: Jorge Rodriguez, Kevin Wu, Ramana Pidaparti
- 9:45 – 10:00 AM** **Morning Break – Reid 2 & 3**
- 10:00 – 10:45 AM** **South Dakota State University**
WINGMAN
Advisor: Todd Letcher
- 10:55 – 11:40 AM** **Poster Session – Day 2 Teams**
IESB 2102 | Foyer
- 11:40 AM - 1:05 PM** **Lunch – NACA Room**
- 1:05 – 4:15 PM** **Teams Tour NASA Langley**
- NLT 1:40 PM** **Judges Deliver Finalized Scores**
- 2:00 – 4:00 PM** **Judges' Deliberation**
IESB 2102 | Room 101
- 4:30 – 5:30 PM** **Awards Ceremony with Light Refreshments**
IESB 2102 | Reid 2 & 3
- NLT 5:45 PM** **Depart IESB – Travel safe!**
Guests must be off NASA by 6 PM

LIVESTREAM INFORMATION

A Livestream of the presentations can be viewed at: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/blueskies>



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<https://blueskies.nianet.org>

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