

Letter from Chair – Carmen Cioc, Ph.D.



Dear ASEE North Central Section Colleagues,

As we move into the summer, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the many accomplishments of our ASEE North Central Section over the past several months and to thank each of you for your continued engagement and commitment to advancing engineering education. Our annual conference, new initiatives, and the continued dedication of our members demonstrate the strength and vitality of our community.

Our 2026 ASEE North Central Section Conference, hosted by the University of Mount Union on March 27–28, was a remarkable success.

More than 135 faculty members, students, administrators, and industry partners gathered under the theme *Transformative Engineering* to share ideas, showcase innovative educational practices, and strengthen collaborations across our region. This year's conference highlighted how engineering education continues to evolve in response to emerging technologies and societal needs. The enthusiasm, creativity, and dedication demonstrated throughout the conference reaffirmed the strength of our community and its commitment to preparing the next generation of engineers.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to our outstanding conference chairs, Dr. Chad Korach and Dr. Shehla Arif, for their exceptional leadership and countless hours of work in organizing such a successful event. I also thank the ASEE North Central Section Board, session organizers, reviewers, presenters, volunteers, sponsors, and attendees whose collective efforts made this conference both engaging and impactful.

Celebrating Excellence

One of the greatest strengths of our Section is the outstanding work being performed by our faculty and students. Congratulations to the recipients of this year's *Best Paper and Best Poster Awards*, from Grand Valley State University, Marshall University, Ohio Northern University, Slippery Rock University, University of Toledo, and West Virginia University

Their scholarship reflects the innovation, rigor, and creativity that define engineering education today, from artificial intelligence and emerging technologies to infrastructure, healthcare, and data analytics. We encourage all of our members to continue sharing their work, mentoring future educators, and engaging with the ASEE community.

We also congratulate our teaching award recipients:

- *Outstanding Teaching Award*: Samuel Dickerson (University of Pittsburgh)
- *Early Career Outstanding Teaching Award*: Abby Clark (Ohio Northern University)

Their accomplishments exemplify the excellence and commitment that make our Section so strong.

Recognizing Distinguished Service

This year also marked an important milestone with the inaugural presentation of the ***ASEE North Central Section Distinguished Service Award***. This new recognition honors individuals whose sustained leadership, mentorship, and service have helped shape and strengthen our Section over many years. My sincere appreciation goes to the selection committee led by our Past Chair, **David Sanchez**, for establishing this meaningful award and recognizing those whose dedication has created lasting opportunities for our members.

Congratulations to the inaugural Distinguished Service Award recipients:

Andrew Kline, Andrew Milks, Betsy M. Aller, Craig Gunn, Dan Budny, Gregory Harstine, Jeffery Kastner, Karinna Vernaza, and Kumar Yelamarthi.

Looking Ahead

The excitement generated by this year's conference continues as we prepare for future ASEE North Central Section meetings:

- **Ohio Northern University – April 9–10, 2027**
- **Kettering University – 2028**
- **University of Detroit Mercy – 2029**

We hope you will join us as presenters, reviewers, volunteers, and participants as we continue building opportunities for collaboration and professional growth.

Help Shape the Future of ASEE North Central Section

The ASEE North Central Section is committed to serving the evolving needs of our members, and your feedback is essential in guiding future initiatives. If you have not yet completed the survey, I encourage you to do so and to share it with your colleagues. Your input will directly influence future workshops, conferences, and strategic initiatives for our Section.

[Strengthening the ASEE North Central Section – Fill out form](#)

Thank you for your continued leadership, scholarship, and service to engineering education. The success of our Section depends on the passion and dedication of members like you, and I look forward to continuing our work together as we build an even stronger ASEE North Central Section community.

With appreciation,

Carmen Cioc

Chair, ASEE North Central Section

List of Events/Deadlines & Table of Contents

Future Events:

- ✓ Spring 2027: ASEE – North Central Section Conference
 - Friday, April 9 to Saturday, April 10
 - Ohio Northern University, Ada, OH
 - Chairs: Stephany Coffman-Wolph
- ✓ Spring 2028: ASEE – North Central Section Conference
 - Kettering University, Flint, MI
 - Chair: Diane Peters
- ✓ Spring 2029: ASEE – North Central Section Conference
 - University of Detroit Mercy, Detroit, MI

Conference Review:

- ✓ Spring 2026: ASEE – North Central Sectional Conference
 - Mt. Union University, Alliance, OH
 - See *Pages 5 to 8* for Detailed Coverage

Executive Board Members:

- ✓ Election Results from Spring 2026 conference – Page 8
- ✓ Executive Board List and Contact info – Page 9

Executive Board Member Position Available: Best Paper Awards Chair

Duties: oversee the peer-review and judging processes for faculty, student papers, and student posters presented at the annual ASEE - NCS spring conferences. Must attend the Spring ASEE – NCS Spring Conferences to be considered for this position.

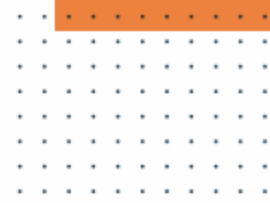
Contact Carmen Cioc (carmen.cioc2@UToledo.Edu) if interested in being appointed

The T.J. Smull College of Engineering

2027 ASEE NCS Annual Conference

Creating Value Through
Education Innovation

OHIO
NORTHERN
UNIVERSITY.



Conference Tracks

Teaching Innovation & Technology-Enhanced Learning	Student Success, Inclusion, & Character Development	Curriculum, Professional Practice, & Societal Impact
Student Design Projects & Capstone Experiences	Student Research & Technical Contributions	Submissions that emphasize creating value through educational innovation are highly encouraged

Stay on campus at **The Inn at Ohio Northern University!**
401 West College Avenue
Ada, Ohio 45810

THE INN
at OHIO NORTHERN UNIVERSITY

Plan Your Submission

Connect with educators and professionals, share innovative ideas in engineering education, and explore emerging trends shaping the future of teaching and learning. We invite engineering and engineering-technology educators, researchers, students, and industry partners to submit papers, posters, and workshops and be part of a vibrant, collaborative community.

- **Full Papers:** Share your research findings in a detailed format
- **Work-In-Progress Papers:** Present ongoing research for feedback and collaboration
- **GIFTS (Great Ideas for Teaching Students):** Contribute innovative teaching ideas and strategies
- **Posters:** Showcase your research visually
- **Workshops:** Lead interactive sessions to engage and educate your peers
- **Student Papers:** Encourage students to submit their work and ideas



FRIDAY and SATURDAY
April 9-10, 2027

James Lehr Kennedy
Engineering Building

828 S. Main Street
Ada, Ohio 45810

Program Chair:
Stephany Coffman-Wolph
s-coffman-wolph@onuedu



Conference Review



2026 ASEE North Central Section Conference

March 27-28, 2026

University of Mount Union
Brenton School of Engineering
Alliance, OH

Transformative Engineering



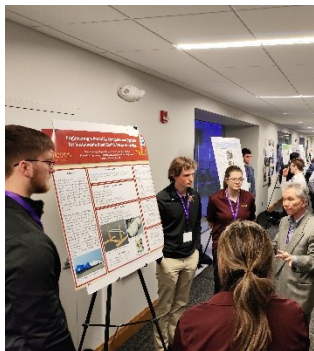
Conference Chairs – Dr. Chad Korach & Dr. Shehla Arif



ASEE – NCS Board Members



Paper Presentations



Student Poster Session

2026 ASEE-NCS Awards



Best Student Poster Award

- 1st Place — Sydney Nicole Little, Concussion Detection Headband. Sydney, Ohio Northern University.
- 2nd Place — Bethany J DeRose, Amber Grace Maurer, Ashley J. Rimmel, Rachel Rose Ferrick, Zachary Donaldson, Cool Springs Creek Bridge Replacement, Slippery Rock University.
- 3rd Place — Charles Remesz, Qin Hu, Design of an Autonomous Trash Collection System For Hospital Use, Eastern Michigan University.

Best Student Paper Award

- 1st Place – Demetrios N Svingos, Brian D. Woerner, Andrew C. Nix, A Capstone Design Project based on requirements of a Community-Based Organization, West Virginia University.
- 2nd Place – Omar Al Babele, Pingping Zhu, Trevor Bihl, Wook-sung Yoo, Haroon Malik, Are Lightweight Vision Transformers Enough for Deepfake Face Detection? Performance, Scalability, and Explainability Study, Marshal University.
- 3rd Place – Tehetna Suraphel Hailu, Suleiman A. Ashur, Predicting Injury Severity in Highway Construction Zones Using Descriptive Frequency Analytics and Multinomial Logistic Regression, Eastern Michigan University.

Best Faculty Paper Award

- 1st Place – Carmen Cioc, Sorin Cioc, Noela A. Haughton, Integrating AI-Enabled, Student-Created Design Projects in Fluid Mechanics and Mechanical Design Courses, University of Toledo
- 2nd Place – Asmaa Radwan, Mohamad S. Qatu, A Study on the Fundamental Metrics Impacting Ranking of Engineering Schools, Eastern Michigan University.
- 3rd Place – Charles Richard DiCanio, Arjumand Ali, An Educational Comparison of Classical and Modern Controllers on Truss Structures with Stress-Based Sizing Constraints, Grand Valley State University.



Outstanding Teaching Award:

1st Place – Dr. Samuel Dickerson (University of Pittsburgh)

Early Career Teaching Award:

1st Place – Dr. Abby Clark, Ohio Northern University

Campus Representatives Award

1st Place – Dr. Deborah Grzybowski, The Ohio State University



2026 Distinguished Service Award recipients:

- Andrew Kline
- Andrew Milks
- Betsy M. Aller
- Craig Gunn
- Dan Budny
- Gregory Harstine
- Jeffery Kastner
- Karinna M. Vernaza
- Kumar Yelamarthi

Newly elected Board Members – Term started June 26, 2026

- **Vice Chair** – Tony Kerzmann (University of Pittsburgh)
- **Director** – Raghu Echempati (Kettering University)
- **Director** – Makenzie Keepers (West Virginia University)

ASEE NORTH CENTRAL SECTION EXECUTIVE BOARD June 26, 2026 to June 25, 2027

<p><u>Chair (2025-2027)</u> Carmen Cioc, Ph.D. Professor Mechanical Engineering Technology The University of Toledo Mail Stop 402 2801 W. Bancroft St. Toledo, OH 43606 Carmen.Cioc2@utoledo.edu</p>	<p><u>Past Chair (2025-2027)</u> David Sanchez, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering Swanson School of Engineering University of Pittsburgh 153 Benedum Hall 3700 O'Hara Street Pittsburgh, PA 15261 davidsanchez@pitt.edu</p>	<p><u>Vice Chair (2025-2026)</u> Tony Kerzmann Ph.D. Associate Professor Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science University of Pittsburgh 512 Benedum Hall 3700 O'Hara St, Pittsburgh, PA, 15261 TKerzmann@pitt.edu</p>	<p><u>Secretary</u> Andrew Kline, Ph.D. Professor Emeritus and Associate Dean Emeritus College of Engineering and Applied Sciences Western Michigan University (269) 271-5123 andrew.kline@wmich.edu</p>
<p><u>Treasurer</u> Gregory Harstine, P.E. Professor of Practice College of Engineering and Polymer Science The University of Akron Schrank Hall South 221D Akron, OH 44325-6104 gph@uakron.edu</p>	<p><u>Newsletter Editor</u> Jeff Kastner, Ph.D. Associate Professor Educator College of Engineering and Applied Science University of Cincinnati 881 Rhodes Hall Cincinnati, OH 45221 jeffrey.kastner@uc.edu</p>	<p><u>Zone II Chair (2024 - 2027)</u> Todd Schweisinger, Ph.D., P.E. Principal Lecturer The School of Mechanical and Automotive Engineering Clemson University todds@clemson.edu</p>	<p><u>Campus Rep Coordinator</u> Craig Gunn, Ph.D. Senior Academic Specialist - Curriculum Development Michigan State University 428 S. Shaw Lane Room: 2443 East Lansing, MI 48824 gunn@egr.msu.edu</p>
<p><u>Director (2025-2027)</u> Haroon Malik, Ph.D. Associate Professor College of Engineering and Computer Sciences Marshall University Office: WAEC 3113 One John Marshall Drive Huntington, WV 25755 malikh@marshall.edu</p>	<p><u>Director (2025-2027)</u> Robin A. M. Hensel, Ed.D. Teaching Professor, Fundamentals of Engineering Program Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources West Virginia University 172 Engineering Sciences Building Morgantown, WV Robin.Hensel@mail.wvu.edu</p>	<p><u>Director (2026-2028)</u> Makenzie Keepers, Ph.D. Teaching Assistant Professor Industrial and Management Systems Engineering West Virginia University 317 Engineering Sciences Building Morgantown, WV 26506 Makenzie.Keepers@mail.wvu.edu</p>	<p><u>Director (2026-2028)</u> Raghu Echempati, Ph.D. Professor Emeritus Mechanical Engineering Kettering University 1700 University Avenue Flint, MI 48504-6214</p>
<p><u>Best Paper Awards Chair</u> Position Available. Please contact Carmen Cioc if you are interested.</p>	<p><u>Webmaster</u> Wook-Sung Yoo, Ph.D. Director of Research and Weisberg Professor, College of Engineering and Computer Sciences, WAEC 2103D, Marshall University Huntington, WV 25755 yoow@marshall.edu</p>	<p><u>Senior Director</u> Betsy M. Aller, Ph.D. Associate Professor Emerita Engineering Design, Manufacturing, and Management Systems Western Michigan University 4601 Campus Drive Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5336 betsy.aller@wmich.edu</p>	<p><u>Role?</u> Nicholas Baine, Ph.D., P.E. Associate Professor Padnos College of Engineering Grand Valley State University 227 Kennedy Hall of Engineering Grand Rapids, MI 49504 (616) 331-6756 bainen@gvsu.edu</p>
<p><u>Past Program Chair (2026)</u> Chad Korach, Ph.D. Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Director, Brenton School of Engineering University of Mount Union 1972 Clark Ave. Alliance, OH 44601 korachcs@mountunion.edu</p>	<p><u>2027 Program Chair</u> Stephany Coffman-Wolph, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Computer Science Ohio Northern University The T.J. Smull College of Engineering 525 South Main Street Ada, OH 45810 s-coffman-wolph@onu.edu</p>	<p><u>2028 Program Chair</u> Diane L. Peters, Ph.D. Professor of Mechanical Engineering Kettering University 1700 University Avenue Flint, MI 48504-6214 dpeters@kettering.edu</p>	<p><u>2029 Program Chair</u> TBD University of Detroit Mercy</p>