

ESRA Position - Chair, Academic Advisory Board

The Chair of the Academic Advisory Board plays a crucial leadership role ensuring the global academic and industry relevance of ESRA programs and the International Rocket Engineering Competition. Collaborating with academic and industry experts, the Chair leads the advisory board in providing ESRA with strategic guidance, fostering opportunities for publishable student research, and maintaining IREC as a premier, globally recognized competition for hands-on STEM learning that effectively prepares students for impactful careers in the aerospace sector and academia.

Level of Volunteer Time Commitment - As needed to establish board, 2-3 hours per month thereafter

Onsite Event Participation - Strongly preferred, stipend provided

Reports to - ESRA Board of Trustees

Works closely with:

- Other Academic Advisory Board members
- ESRA President
- ESRA Executive Director
- AIAA Academic Publishing Team
- ESRA Academic Conference Coordinator
- ESRA Rocket Competition Director

Primary Responsibilities:

- **Leadership and Board Management:**
 - Oversee the development and execution of the advisory board's strategic plan, ensuring alignment with ESRA's educational mission.
 - Recruit new board members representing a diverse range of academic disciplines and industry backgrounds. This requires identifying potential members, extending invitations, and onboarding new members effectively.
 - Lead effective advisory board meetings, fostering open communication and collaboration. This involves setting meeting agendas, guiding discussions, and ensuring all members actively contribute.
 - Organize at least two advisory board meetings per year, including virtual or in-person meetings as appropriate. This includes scheduling meetings, preparing materials, and disseminating information to board members.
- **Academic Relevance and Publication:**

- Evaluate and provide recommendations on the academic content and relevance of ESRA's activities. This includes reviewing competition rules, judging criteria, and educational resources.
- Develop strategies to ensure student work within the competition framework can lead to publishable research. This includes setting guidelines for report writing and identifying suitable publication venues.
- Work with ESRA's partner, the AIAA Academic Publishing Team and other relevant organizations to establish pathways for student publications and presentations at academic conferences.
- **Industry Engagement and Partnerships:**
 - Seek opportunities to enhance the competition's relevance to industry needs and potential career paths for students. This requires an understanding of global industry trends and skill requirements.
 - Foster relationships with industry partners to enhance the competition, provide mentorship opportunities, and create pathways for student internships and employment.

Qualifications:

- PhD in a relevant field (e.g., aerospace engineering, mechanical engineering, physics).
- Tenure-track professor at an accredited university.
- Demonstrated leadership experience in academia or industry.
- Strong understanding of rocketry principles and aerospace engineering.
- Established connections in both academia and industry, preferably with an international scope.
- Excellent communication, interpersonal, and organizational skills.
- Passion for STEM education and fostering student development.

To Apply:

Contact the ESRA Executive Director Andy Berger at execdir@esrocket.org