

Aero Engagement Lab

March 8–9, 2026 | Lakeland, Florida

SAE Aero Design teams are invited to participate in a new post competition learning and workforce development experience, the **Aero Engagement Lab**, taking place March 8–9, 2026 at the Florida Air Museum in Lakeland, Florida.

While this lab is designed as an add-on opportunity following the SAE Aero Design East event in Florida, teams registered for the Texas event are also welcome and encouraged to sign up for this opportunity.

The Aero Engagement Lab is an in-person, facilitated learning experience focused on reflection, team dynamics, and workforce readiness. Programming emphasizes discussion, guided exercises, and collaborative learning rather than vehicle build or testing activities.

Program Overview

Sunday, March 8

Sunday evening is designed for connection and informal engagement.

- Networking dinner with peers, faculty, and industry partners (Post Flying + Award Ceremony)
- Optional resume reviews and additional career conversations

Monday, March 9

Monday is a full day of structured programming held inside an aircraft hangar at the Florida Air Museum facility.

Planned elements include:

- Welcome and opening remarks
- Educational and discussion-based industry session led by Lockheed Martin, with final topic to be announced soon
- Simulation Lab session led by MathWorks focused on modeling, analysis, and design decision making
- Strengths based team dynamics sessions using CliftonStrengths assessments, worksheets, and facilitated group discussion
- Program development focus group session to gather team input and inform the future growth of SAE Aero Design
- Lunch provided onsite
- Closing discussion and wrap up

Programming details and session order will be finalized closer to the event with more details to share in the next few weeks.

Why Participate?

The Aero Engagement Lab is designed to help teams translate competition experience into workforce aligned learning. It emphasizes communication, collaboration, reflection, and role alignment while creating space to connect with industry and other Aero Design teams outside the pace of competition weekend.

Key highlights include:

- Networking dinner focused on peer and industry connection
- Facilitated team strengths and dynamics sessions
- Educational sessions led by industry partners
- Structured opportunities to provide feedback that helps shape future SAE Aero Design programming
- An immersive learning environment inside an aircraft hangar

Event Overview

- **Program Dates:** March 8–9, 2026
- **Location:** [Florida Air Museum](#) in Lakeland, Florida
- **Maximum Teams:** 30 + waitlist
- **Team Composition:** Up to 5 participants per team, including any combination of students and faculty

Sign Up Information

- **Registration Fee:** \$500 USD per team
- **Lottery Interest Window Opens:** January 15th, 2026 at 10:00 am EST
- **Lottery Interest Window Closes:** January 21, 2026 at 11:59 pm EST
- **Lottery Publishes:** January 22, 2026 at 10:00 am EST
 - Note: After the lottery is published, any open spots will be available on a first come, first serve basis until registration officially closes on February 15, 2026 at 11:59 pm EST.
- **Sign Up Link:** [Competitions & Workshops Tab](#) (sign up button will appear when lottery opens 1/15)

If you have questions or general feedback about this opportunity, please submit a ticket.

[Submit a ticket here!](#)