

AIAA Members Win 2017 ESSSA Awards

*By Ken Philippart
Images by Sarah Lincoln*

Two Greater Huntsville Section members were recently recognized with prestigious awards from the Jacobs Engineering and Science Services and Skills Augmentation (ESSSA) contract group. Tony Miller received the 2017 ESSSA Apogee Award and Naveen Vetcha was named the 2017 Volunteer of the Year. Both members received their awards during a ceremony on November 13, 2017.



Tony Miller (center) receives the Apogee Award from Jacobs ESSSA Group Deputy General Manager Jeff Haars (left) and Tim Sanders (right).

AIAA Senior Member Tony Miller received the Apogee Award, the ESSSA Group's highest technical honor. The award is given in recognition of outstanding specific accomplishments which significantly exceed normal performance standards and exhibit exemplary ethical and professional practices consistent with the ESSSA Group philosophy. Additional criteria considered in the selection are efforts in support of professional societies, publication of reviewed papers, and service to the community. Tony's nomination cited him as "***THE*** Marshall Space Flight Center expert on liquid rocket engine hot-fire testing data analyses processes, scripting,

data reduction and presentation. His pioneering efforts to standardize and automate test data analysis have been applied to two disparate engine test programs, a testament to the versatility of the tools he has developed."

Tony's involvement in AIAA was also a key selection factor. His nomination read, "*Tony Miller continuously strives to improve our profession*" and cited numerous instances of his AIAA activities.

Section Chair Dr. Naveen Vetcha was named the ESSSA contract group's Volunteer of the Year for 2017. The Volunteer of the Year award recognizes outstanding specific contributions by an individual or team to the community. Such contributions are made on personal time to serve others and to enhance the goodwill stature of the ESSSA Group.

Dr. Vetcha was nominated based upon his extensive involvement with AIAA and the Von Braun Astronomical Society, among other volunteer activities. Naveen has been an active

member of the AIAA Greater Huntsville Section for over four years. His contributions have been critical to the section being named the institute's Outstanding Section three years in a row, beating out much larger sections in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington, DC. He is currently serving as the Chair and previously served as the Vice Chair and Honors & Awards Director. For his outstanding efforts, he was named the section's 2016 Young Professional of the Year.

His award nomination read, "*Naveen is one of those rare individuals who gives countless hours of his time to make his community a better place and does so freely without expecting anything in return. He brings a level of professionalism and commitment to volunteer work that is rarely seen outside of paid employment.*"

Congratulations Tony and Naveen and thank you for your service to the Greater Huntsville Section and our community!



Dr. Vetcha (center) receives the Volunteer of the Year Award from Jacobs ESSSA Group Deputy General Manager Jeff Haars (left) and Tim Sanders (right).