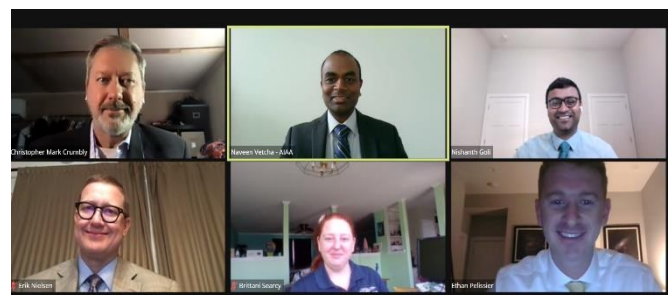
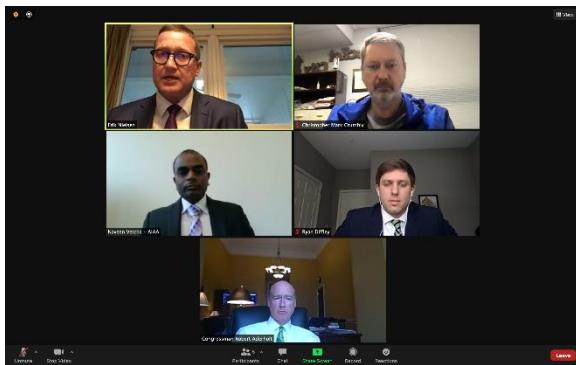


AIAA GHS members participate in the first ever virtual Congressional Visits Day

By Naveen Vetcha

During the week of March 15th section members from Alabama and Mississippi participated in the institute's first ever virtual Congressional Visits meetings. Traditionally, the 3rd Wednesday of March every year is the institute's [Congressional Visits Day](#) (CVD). Members from all over the country would fly to Washington DC to meet with the representatives and talk about the importance of Aerospace to the nation and their state. AIAA cancelled the CVD in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. CVD returned in 2021 in a virtual format and instead of being a one-day event, AIAA's public policy committee decided to make it a week-long event. This helped more members to participate in this year's meetings.



AIAA Greater Huntsville Section members meeting with various congressional offices

[AIAA Public Policy Committee](#) (PPC) put together multiple trainings and provided relevant material so that all the members are well prepared to engage with congressional offices.

Your Greater Huntsville Section has been represented well in the past resulting in our section receiving the 1st place (very large section category) across AIAA in public policy efforts consecutively for four years. Continuing this tradition, nine members from the section participated in the meetings with the congressional offices throughout the week. Our section members met with all nine Alabama congressional offices and four of the Mississippi offices. Special Thanks to Mr. Michael Thompson, a student member from MS State for leading Mississippi team. Members talked about [AIAA key issues](#) and emphasized the importance of improving STEM education efforts across both the states to support the Aerospace and Defense Industry that supports close to 77,000 jobs and creates an economic output of ten billion dollars combinedly over the two states. Sections thanks all the members who participated in this year's virtual congressional visits meetings. Thanks also to all the congressional offices for accommodating our schedules.

AIAA PPC has already thinking about next year's event and considering the in-person or hybrid options. AIAA Greater Huntsville Section needs your support in continuing to have a good representation in the future CVDs. To encourage the participation, in the past, AIAA national office and our section offered subsidy to support the travel based on need. I encourage you to participate in the next year's event. It is important to AIAA & our industry that our representatives hear from us. If you have any questions, please contact Naveen Vetcha, section's Director of Public Policy at nvetcha@gmail.com.