

DUKE AERO

A BRIEF HANDBOOK FOR
CORPORATE SPONSORS
2025-2026



Dear Potential Corporate Partner,

Duke AERO is a collegiate high-powered rocketry team dedicated to providing students with hands-on technical experience in aerospace engineering. Each year, our team designs, manufactures, and tests a competition rocket while fostering mentorship, technical growth, and professional development—all with the goal of preparing our members for careers in the aerospace industry.

From a foundation in aircraft design to multiple rocket launches, Duke AERO has a history of evolving engineering excellence. Our student members have conducted airplane wing builds, explored satellite design concepts, and manufactured six rockets from design to launch. During the 2023-2024 season, we designed our first SRAD solid-fuel rocket, which flew in the 10,000-ft category at the 2024 Spaceport America Cup and earned the Jim Furfaro Award for Technical Excellence. Selected from 152 international teams, Duke AERO's rocket was recognized by the judges as exemplifying the strongest overall engineering discipline and technical execution across design, manufacturing, and system integration. Leveraging this success, our team built and launched a 30,000-ft SRAD solid-fuel rocket for the 2025 International Rocket Engineering Competition. As the club's largest and most advanced rocket to date, this vehicle featured numerous innovations, including a variable drag airbrake system for precision apogee targeting, a canard system for active roll control, and strain gauge-integrated fins to measure in-flight fin strains from aerodynamic loading. This year, we plan to return to the International Rocket Engineering Competition while continuing development of our liquid rocket engine.

This team is resilient, motivated, and passionate about aerospace. Financial and technical support from our sponsors makes it possible for us to design, build, and fly a competition rocket each year, while also providing our members with valuable networking opportunities.

The purpose of this packet is to provide a brief overview of Duke AERO and outline the opportunities for corporate sponsorship during the 2025-2026 academic year and beyond. As our technical ambition continues to grow, we invite you to join us in pushing the boundaries of student-led rocketry and supporting the development of increasingly capable and innovative rockets.

Respectfully,

Katelyn Steele

Duke AERO | Corporate Outreach 2025-26

Who We Are

Our members are rocketry and aerospace enthusiasts, through and through. With beyond-the-classroom involvement in design and manufacturing, and internship experience at premier organizations such as SpaceX, Blue Origin, NASA, Northrop Grumman, Boeing, and Lockheed Martin, Duke AERO members truly are some of the brightest and most dedicated young engineers in the country.

Executive Board



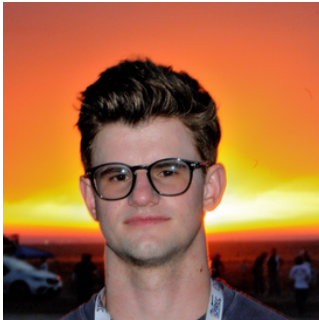
Megan Glasgow ('26)
President

B.S.E. in Mechanical Engineering, Minor in Computer Science, & Certificate in Aerospace Engineering



Rohan Joshi ('26)
Co-Vice President

B.S.E. in Mechanical Engineering, Certificate in Aerospace Engineering, & Certificate in Innovation and Entrepreneurship



Grant Weerts ('26)
Co-Vice President

B.S.E. in Mechanical Engineering & Certificate in Aerospace Engineering



Cam Galibois ('26)
Treasurer

B.S.E. in Mechanical Engineering, Certificate in Aerospace Engineering, & Certificate in Innovation and Entrepreneurship



Charlie Berens ('26)
Secretary

B.S.E. in Electrical and Computer Engineering & B.S. in Computer Science



Katelyn Steele ('27)
Corporate Outreach

B.S.E. in Mechanical Engineering & Certificate in Aerospace Engineering



Sydney Shaffer ('26)
Strategic Initiatives

B.S.E. in Mechanical Engineering & Certificate in Aerospace Engineering

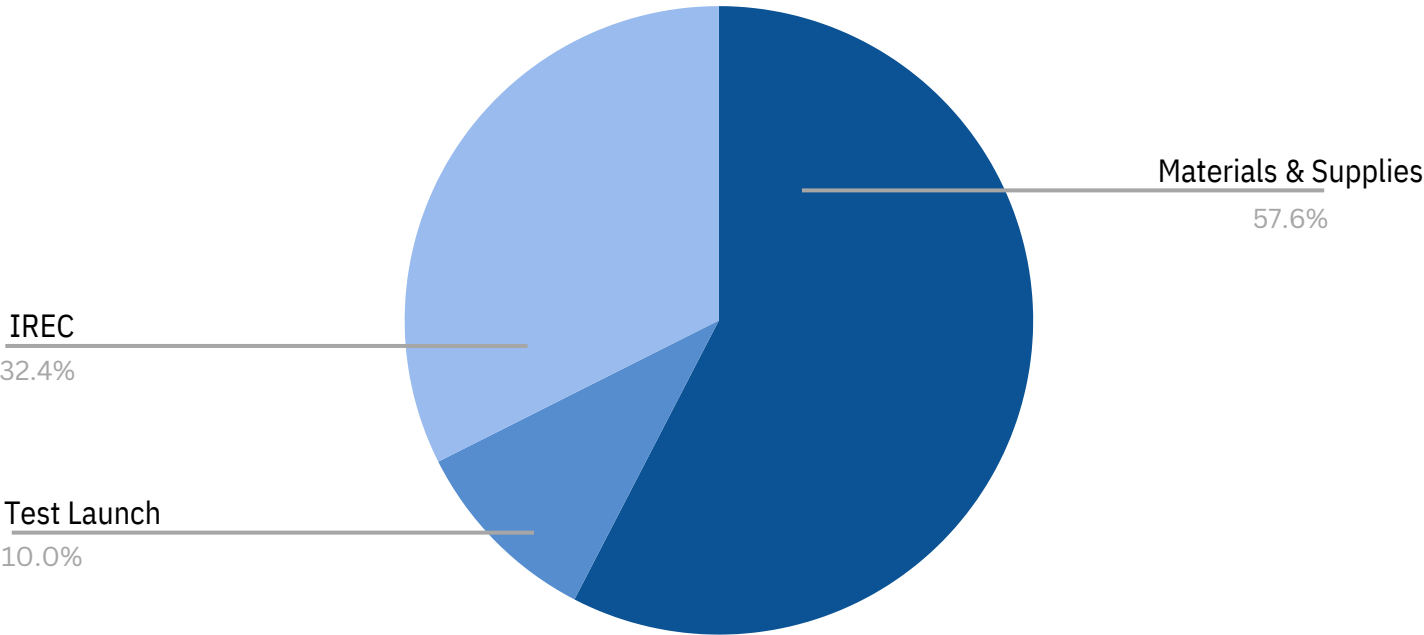


Connor Mitchell ('26)
Integration and Test

B.S.E. in Mechanical Engineering & B.A. in Computer Science

Budget

For the 2025-2026 academic year, we as a team have set our sights high. Our goal is to return to the International Rocket Engineering Competition (IREC) with a 30,000-ft SRAD solid-fuel competition rocket and continue development of our liquid engine. These projects will be the highlight of our club’s achievements, but these endeavors come at a cost. Receiving no travel funding and a minimal build budget from our university, our team’s accomplishments are largely made possible by your generous contributions. Below you will find an outline of this year’s budget.



Build Budget	
Allocation	Anticipated Spending
Structures	\$3,500
Avionics	\$5,500
Payload	\$2,700
Recovery	\$1,300
Solid Propulsion	\$5,000
Liquid Propulsion Research	\$7,000

Total Budget	
Allocation	Anticipated Spending
Materials & Supplies	\$26,400
Test Launch	\$4,571
IREC	\$14,860

Sponsorship

It is the generous support from our sponsors that enables us to progress. As we seek to grow our club, we would not be able to achieve our goals without your help. Together, we can continue to build upon our previous successes, inspiring and informing the next generation of aerospace engineers. Any contribution you choose to make is greatly appreciated.

Engaging in a corporate sponsorship program with Duke AERO comes with certain benefits such as advertising and logo distribution, as well as access to some of the brightest engineering talent in the nation. Below, you will find a list of the various levels of monetary sponsorship and their corresponding benefits.

Level 4: Launch Sponsor > \$4,000

Large Logo on Rocket
Large Logo on Website
Invitation to Local Launch Events
Invitation to Critical Design Meetings
Lower Tier Incentives

Level 3: Build Sponsor > \$2,000

Medium Logo on Rocket
Medium Logo on Website
Company Name/Logo on Team Wear
Social Media Post
Lower Tier Incentives

Level 2: Design Sponsor > \$750

Small Logo on Rocket
Small Logo on Website
Access to Group Resume Book
Lower Tier Incentives

Level 1: Donor < \$750

Semesterly Email Newsletter

Non-Monetary Support

Duke AERO also welcomes non-monetary contributions. These may take numerous forms including material donations, in-kind donations, on-campus info sessions, career mentorship, and student visits to company sites, just to name a few. If you would like to partner with us, do not hesitate to reach out to explore what options may exist.

Contact

To take the next step on any corporate sponsorship options, please contact our Corporate Outreach Chair, Katelyn Steele, at kas237@duke.edu. You can also reach her by phone at (267)-664-4379. This includes discussing an on-campus event or an alternate form of sponsorship. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

Also, feel free to follow our group on [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#) and browse our website <https://dukerocketry.com/>.

If you are a first-time sponsor, we encourage you to reach out with any questions. To our returning sponsors, we warmly thank you for your continued support and look forward to working with you throughout the year!

