The AAEES Chapter Blue Marble Award



The AAEES Student Chapter at AAEES University

Submitted: February 1, 2025

Submitted by: Yolanda Moulden, AAEES Student President

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Dear Selection Committee,

On behalf of the members of the AAEES Student Chapter at AAEES University, I am pleased to submit our application for the AAEES Chapter Blue Marble Award. Our chapter has dedicated itself to creating a meaningful environment where environmental engineering and environmental science students can contribute to a more sustainable future.

We are deeply honored to have the opportunity to be considered for this prestigious award. We believe our chapter’s efforts, leadership, and commitment align with the values of the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to the possibility of being recognized for our contributions to a sustainable world.

Sincerely,

Yolanda Moulden

President

AAEES Student Chapter at AAEES University

**1**. Name of host University for students or appropriate local name for professionals (i.e., Houston region)

The AAEES Student Chapter at AAEES University

Annapolis, Maryland

**2**. Name and contact information for current President, Vice President, and Faculty Advisor (i.e., email, phone, mailing address)

**President**

Yolanda Moulden

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**Vice President**

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Faculty Advisor

Dr. Susannah Walz

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**3**. Evidence of at least six bi-monthly chapter meetings during the prior calendar year (i.e., at least six regular meetings during the year)

We prioritize maintaining an active, engaged student chapter by holding regular monthly meetings and offering both virtual and in-person events. These meetings are great networking opportunities to foster collaboration, share knowledge, and provide opportunities for student chapter members to engage in sustainability initiatives.

Regular meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month. To be accessible to all students, we host our regular meetings virtually. We also host in-person events to foster deeper engagement and community-building with our student chapter.

Email invitations, meeting links, and agendas are sent out via email a week before each meeting, ensuring that members have all the information needed to participate.

We also post digital flyers for each meeting on our community website, which is accessible to both members and other interested students.

Samples of our invites are below:





**4**. Evidence of at least one webinar watch event during the prior calendar year (i.e., event may take place as part of a regular bi-monthly chapter meeting)

On February 7, 2024, our chapter hosted a Waffle and Watch Party for the AAEES (American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists) webinar on Engineering for Peace and Diplomacy. The event was open to all students - members and non-members, creating an inclusive space for learning, discussion, and networking. This was done with the support and assistance of our faculty advisor, Dr. Walz.

The objective of this event was to provide an environment for students and faculty to learn more about the essential role engineers play in the 21st century, not just as technical problem-solvers, but as active contributors to global peacebuilding and diplomatic efforts.

Our watch party was well attended, with more than 30 students and faculty members participating in this event. Afterwards, we discussed key takeaways from the session and how they could apply the principles of engineering for peace and diplomacy to local and global challenges.

Not only was this a great networking event, but we also used it as a recruitment opportunity with five new student chapter members being added.

In line with our chapter’s commitment to sustainable practices, we partnered with a local supplier to provide a waffle bar featuring ingredients sourced locally and sustainably. The waffle bar offered a variety of toppings, including fresh fruit, plant-based options, and organic syrups, to ensure that the event was both delicious and eco-friendly.

The invitation flyer and photos of the event are below.





**5**. Evidence of at least two recruitment activities during the prior calendar year (i.e., once during the spring semester and once during the autumn semester; events may take place alongside a regular bi-monthly chapter meeting)

Membership is open year-round, allowing interested individuals to join our chapter and participate in meetings, events, and projects at any time. We actively engage in digital outreach, leveraging email campaigns, social media, and our community website to share information about the benefits of joining the chapter, upcoming events, and current projects.

We have a university-hosted community website with information about membership benefits, recent projects, and upcoming events. Social media platforms, such as Instagram, LinkedIn, and Facebook, are used to reach potential members and keep current members informed.

The fall recruitment drive was held on September 4, the first regular meeting following Labor Day. This is our first and biggest recruitment event. This is a great networking opportunity for both returning and potential members.

This meeting was attended by our faculty advisor who shared her story of starting out as a student member at AAEES and how her mentor encouraged her to continue with the organization, first applying as an AAEES Member, and then applying for Board Certification.

We included a presentation on our chapter’s history and upcoming events. Current members also shared their experiences with potential members. We attracted ten new members at the fall recruitment event.

The Spring recruitment drive was held on March 6, the last meeting before spring break. The spring recruitment drive tends to be smaller. We make it a point to invite students who attend the previous year’s Fall drive but hadn’t yet joined to encourage them to follow through.

Photos from our recruitment drives are below:



**6**. Evidence of a chapter activity shared as a story that supports an Academy social media campaign (i.e., submitting at least one story of a chapter activity – such as a neighborhood or stream cleanup, or design competition, or similar – that supports at least one event on the Academy Social Media Calendar).

We saw a post on the Academy’s LinkedIn on April 22, 2024, celebrating Earth Day.

In celebration of **Earth Day 2024**, our chapter organized an event that included a **neighborhood cleanup**, an **electronic waste recycling drive**, and educational activities aimed at raising awareness about sustainability.

The event was designed to support the **Academy’s Earth Day social media campaign**, which highlighted activities around the world that were focused on environmental protection and sustainability. Our chapter worked directly with the Academy’s social media team to share our event and align it with their **Earth Day** campaign.

Our campus did a write-up on the event and posted videos on the university’s website.

Links to their coverage on our event is online at: https://www.aaees.org/

**7**. Evidence of member advancement (i.e., that student members have transferred to members of the Academy at the time of graduation – or – members of the Academy are pursuing Board Certification)

Dr. Walz shared her story at our Fall recruitment event. One of her professors was AAEES Board Certified and encouraged her to join AAEES as a student member and mentored her throughout the years to go from a student member to an AAEES Member and to Board Certification.

During our April 3 meeting, graduating seniors are encouraged to sign up for AAEES Membership. Last year, three of our graduating seniors are now AAEES Members. They are:

(List names former students, now AAEES Members).

Mindy Moore become an AAEES Member on May 3, 2024

William Willson became an AAEES Member on May 17, 2024

Andy Anderson became an AAEES Member on June 17, 2024.