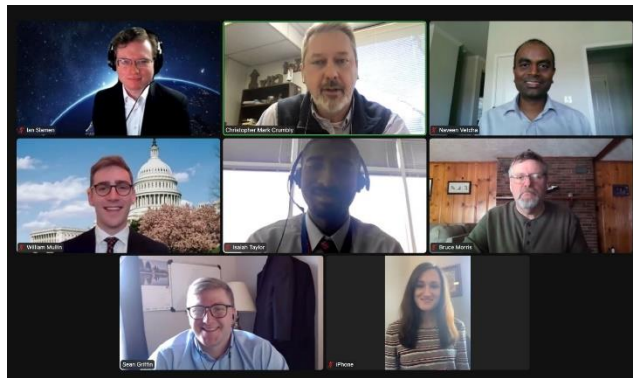


AIAA GHS members participate in the 2022 Congressional Visits Week

By Naveen Vetcha

During the week of March 14th section members from Alabama participated in the institute's annual 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 and switched to Virtual format in 2021. In 2021 AIAA's public policy committee decided to make it a week-long event. This helped more members to participate in these meetings. We continued the virtual and weeklong format in 2022.



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 five years. Continuing this tradition, six 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. Members talked about [AIAA key issues](#) and emphasized the importance of improving STEM education efforts across the state to support the Aerospace and Defense Industry that supports close to 61,000 jobs and creates an economic output of six billion dollars. Section 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.