

July 14, 2017

Dear Colleagues:

I am delighted to welcome you to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach Campus. The College of Engineering is excited that our Department of Engineering Fundamentals will be hosting the 9th Annual First Year Engineering Experience Conference. We hope you will have a wonderful time in Daytona Beach and enjoy all it has to offer.



Embry-Riddle is 90 years old; established 23 years after the Wright Brothers' first flight and the birth of aviation. It is the oldest and the most prestigious aviation and aerospace university in the world. I hope you will take some time during the conference to tour our College of Aviation and our flight line to see first-hand our aviation legacy and our vast infrastructure for aviation education and research.

In the past decade, however, Embry-Riddle has also positioned itself as a technological university. At the core of this new identity is the College of Engineering at Daytona Beach, known for its top ranked undergraduate programs, innovative hands-on curriculum, focus on experiential learning, and research at undergraduate level opportunities. I invite you to walk through the Lehman Engineering and Technology Center to see the many practical projects our students are involved in as part of their education. I also hope you will find time to tour the new Engineering Building, the John Mica Engineering, and Aerospace Innovation Complex (MicaPlex). This iconic facility, the first building in Embry-Riddle's Research Park, serves as an ecosystem for faculty and students to pursue research as well as taking ideas from conception to a commercial product.

The Engineering Fundamentals Department leads our effort in ensuring student success through their research, evidenced-based approach to pedagogy, and putting in practice their research on how best to teach engineering. That translates into more hands-on activities and other forms of active learning that take students out of the lecture hall and into the lab. We are proud to host this event and to hear and learn about your best practices and share ours with you.

We are especially pleased to have Ken Reid, Acting Department Head & Assistant Department Head, Undergraduate Programs, as this year's Monday morning keynote speaker. Ken is a pioneer in promoting student success through first year engineering education. His talk, 'What Does "Introduction to Engineering" Mean?', will discuss his experience developing a taxonomy for "Introduction to Engineering" courses. Please join us at 8:15 AM on Monday in the Richard Petty ballroom of the Shores Resort and Spa to hear Ken's address.

I wish you a great and successful conference.

Sincerely,

Maj Mirmirani, Ph.D.
Interim Senior VP of Academic Affairs and Research
Dean, College of Engineering

