

International Council on Systems Engineering  
*a better world through a systems approach*

## North Star Chapter Newsletter, 2026 #2

north-star.incose.org or [on INCOSE Connect](#)

### Chapter email distribution

The North Star Chapter (NSC) of INCOSE has been using Constant Contact to distribute email broadly (**from:** [northstar.incose-gmail.com@shared1.ccsend.com](mailto:northstar.incose-gmail.com@shared1.ccsend.com)).

As a reminder, Mailchimp is not authorized to distribute communications on behalf of NSC after January 2026. Any email claiming otherwise should be considered a potential source of malicious links (see [FTC announcement of report on spam and phishing \[1\]](#)) or phishing attempt (see [FTC guidance on phishing scams \[2\]](#)).

### Normandale Community College collaboration

On an ongoing basis, NSC will be participating in Normandale Community College's continuing education programs, and some or most NSC events will be held on the second floor of **Normandale's Partnership Center** (Figure 1).

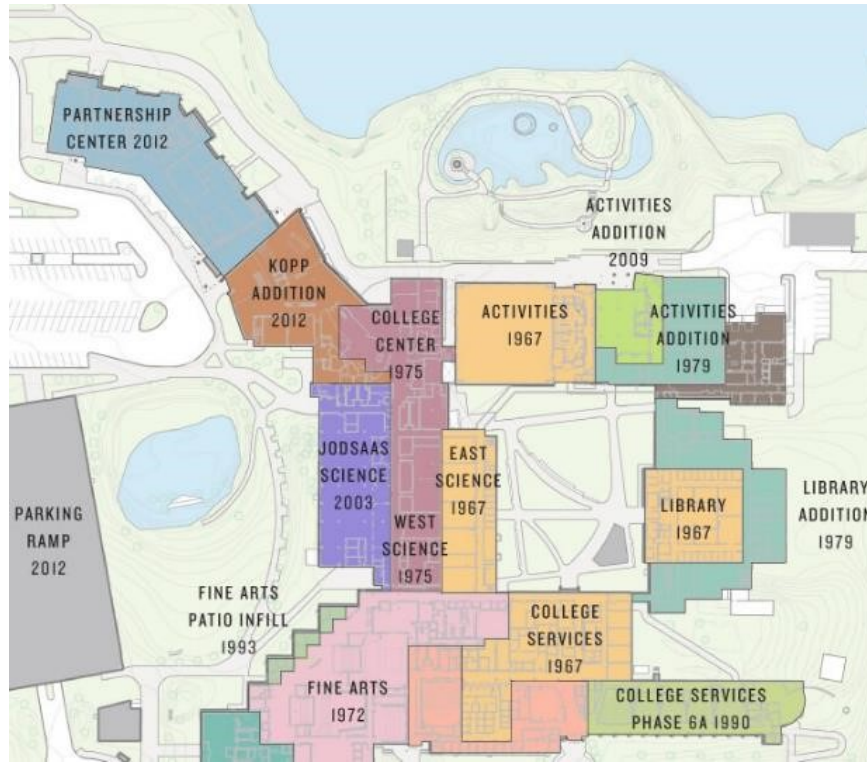
The Partnership Center is not best accessed from the parking lot at the community college's main entrance. The Partnership Center is the northwest corner of Normandale's building complex (Figure 2), up near the Japanese garden. [Essentially, the address is 9547 Collegeview Road, Bloomington 55431-4309.](#)

The two rooms contemplated for NSC to use the most are on the second floor.

Food at Normandale is provided by Tiffin Man. Group orders (as formerly for pizza) have not been established, but [Tiffin Man's catering options are available for pre-ordering individually, at tiffinmanmn.catertrax.com.](#)



Figure 1. Normandale Community College Partnership Center.



**Figure 2. Normandale Community College buildings, with the Partnership Center as the northwest corner.**

David from Tiffin Man writes:

You will need to **create your own individual account** (you can also view the menu without a profile), it takes 2-3 minutes. You will only need to do this once.

Click the Normandale Tab, you will be able to view the menu, and enter the order. Entering the order places it on the calendar. Nothing in the order is finalized until your final email confirmation review, so no pressure.

CaterTrax will ask all the important questions, and will give you complete pricing. You can enter the order any-time, and we can make adjustments (people/quantity/etc.) up to seven days before the event. If you are paying with a PO you can enter "PENDING" in the box when asked at checkout. Or you can enter Credit Card information, and continue the order. Once you have the PO, forward to me and I can enter it into the order.

upcoming

## Systems Engineering in Healthcare Conference

[April 28-30, 2026, DoubleTree Minneapolis Airport](#)

2020 American Boulevard East, Bloomington, Minnesota 55425

Tuesday, April 28 5:30–6:30, in the Grand Foyer

[NSC's reception for the conference](#)—refreshments with 1 drink ticket for each of the first 28 to sign in at our welcome table

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Tuesday, 5 May Leadership Meeting – Planning – All are welcome to attend and to participate.

6:00 p.m. Normandale Partnership Center, Room P1844

— **Don't forget your food preorder or careful discernment of the driving directions!**

### May Event: INCOSE Project Wildfire overview

Please come and join us for the May INCOSE North Star event, an overview of **Project Wildfire**. This exercise coordinates INCOSE's component entities to apply S.E. practices to a dynamic, historic scenario.

**Tuesday, May 19 6 p.m.**

in-person: [White Bear Lake Library  
2150 2nd St, White Bear Lake 55110](#)

hybrid: [Click here to join via Teams.](#)

Meeting ID: 290 561 832 063 94

Passcode: qJ7dC6L5

[Click for Eventbrite details & RSVP.](#)

### Synopsis

The Holiday Farm Fire of 2020 was among the largest wildfires in the history of the U.S. state of Oregon, burning 173,393 acres. Many cell phones were unavailable for alerting the public because, when the electrical grid went out, people turned off their cell phones to conserve power. There was no pause button to allow system models to be completed and validated.

Project Wildfire is a multi-disciplinary initiative co-sponsored by the Systems of Systems (SoS) and Information, Communi-

cations, and Technology (ICT) Working Groups. [Project Wildfire is now also an INCOSE Connect Community](#) that is open for any INCOSE member to join. [An overview presentation deck is available there.](#)

At the International Workshop, leaders from INCOSE's Project Wildfire provided systems insights that the project team developed for breakout group framing and consideration.

Decks are now available from [the Systems of Systems WG library on Connect](#);

- introduction during the opening plenary
- MBSE WG
- Decision Analysis WG
- Systems of Systems WG
- Critical Infrastructure Protection & Recovery WG
- Cross-WG Collaboration
- wrap during the closing plenary

### Speaker

Come find out what will be covered in which decks, and what speaker may present remotely.

Saturday, 13 – Thursday, 18 June

**International Symposium, Yokohama, Japan**

June event:

Medical Applications of Cyber-Physical Systems

Tuesday, June 16 6 p.m.

in-person, tentative: [Normandale Community College](#)  
9700 France Ave S, Bloomington 55431

Partnership Center ([effectively 9547 Collegeview Road](#),  
northwest corner of the building complex), Room P1840

backup reservation:

[Maplewood Library, Community Program Room](#)  
[3025 Southlawn Dr, Maplewood 55109](#)

hybrid: [Click here to join via Teams.](#)

Meeting ID: 290 561 832 063 94

Passcode: qJ7dC6L5

**Speaker**

[Esteban M. Solórzano Zeledón, D.Eng., CSEP](#)

Principal Systems Engineer for Medical Cyber-Physical Systems (MCPS)

Boston Scientific Corporation ([bostonscientific.com](#))

July 7/August 4/tentative:

video highlights from the [International Symposium](#)

**Summer Social:** tentative, [Commemorative Air Force](#)

Fleming Filed

[310 Airport Road, Hanger 3, South St Paul 55075](#)

+ return (after last January) to [Holman's Table](#)  
[644 Bayfield St, St Paul 55107](#)

**fall tutorial**, tentative: **Defining Needs and Requirements for Resilient Systems**—Lou Wheatcraft

## Two Volunteer Director Openings

Organizational Project-Enabling Processes:  
ISO/IEC/IEEE 15288 6.2.4.1

*Human Resource Management Process*

The NSC volunteer Leadership Team (LT) has two **positions open**.

- Step up as the occasion arises, for the best quality of the members' experiences.
- Attend monthly Leadership meetings, typically the first Tuesday of each month.
- Exchange assistance with INCOSE staff.

For more information, email Warren Porter at [Warren.Porter@incose.net](mailto:Warren.Porter@incose.net).

**Membership Director**, owning the recruiting and retention of members for NSC. There is a "Membership Chair Role Guide.pdf" for the INCOSE Americas Sector (1 of 3 global Sectors).

**Technical Director**

- Assist presenters and event champions, owning the hybrid quality of NSC events.
- Assist the Communications Director and the others in the LT with SharePoint and applications, owning the security and usability of the internet platforms used for LT purposes.
- Own the LT's maintenance of the chapter calendar, which is an emphasis of the Americas Sector guide for a Technical Director.

## INCOSE North Star Chapter April 2026 Survey

You are invited to take this 13-item survey, largely multiple-choice, for three purposes:

### **ALEX cohort • SE Exec Roundtable • Chapter toward 2027**

No information will be shared with third parties, distributed within the chapter, or used for marketing purposes.

**NSC** and other chapters issue surveys of this nature so as to plan the best value in practice, for INCOSE members.

**INCOSE** (the parent organization of NSC) is seeking candid feedback from business leaders (VP/C-Level) on the value of SE in organizations. Do you have a leader in your company who might be open to a 20-minute 'industry feedback' chat? This would not be a sales call. It would be a listening session with open-ended questions about how they perceive SE.

### **Invitation: Practitioner UAT Cohort — AI for Systems & V&V Engineering Workflows**

As AI capabilities continue to mature, many engineering teams are exploring how these technologies can support real-world systems engineering and verification & validation (V&V) workflows — particularly within regulated environments such as medical device development.

**IntelliU** is developing **ALEX**, an AI-enabled engineering team-mate designed to support systems engineering practice across the product lifecycle. **ALEX** assists with activities such as:

- Test scenario generation
- System and subsystem design coverage (including dFMEA support)
- Change impact assessment and regression testing review

- Compliance documents coverage analysis
- Writing and updating design artifacts

To validate real-world usability and workflow alignment, IntelliU is forming a small **Practitioner User Acceptance Testing (UAT) Cohort** consisting of **10–12 engineers** from the North Star systems engineering community. ) Your input will help validate where AI delivers the most value in systems engineering practice.

### **Purpose of This Practitioner Cohort**

The objective of this UAT phase is to:

- Assess workflow usability
- Evaluate alignment with real engineering practices
- Gather structured practitioner feedback

This phase is focused on usability and workflow validation. New feature ideas will be captured but may be evaluated in future development phases.

Participation is intentionally limited to maintain quality interaction and structured evaluation.

### **What Selected Participants Will Do**

Participants will:

- Work with **1-2 primary ALEX capability** aligned to their domain area
- Execute a small set of structured engineering tasks
- Provide feedback via short structured surveys
- Participate in a brief exit discussion

### **Time Commitment**

Approximately **1-2 hours total** over a **2-week evaluation window**.

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### Who We Are Looking For

We are particularly interested in practitioners working in:

- Medical devices or other regulated product environments
- Systems engineering and V&V roles
- Risk management / FMEA
- Quality or compliance engineering
- Document-based engineering workflows

Participants will be selected based on:

- Domain relevance
- Alignment between experience area and UAT focus
- Ability to complete the UAT within the time window

### Express Interest

Chapter members and colleagues who wish to be considered may express interest within the NSC survey. Selection notifications will be sent after review.

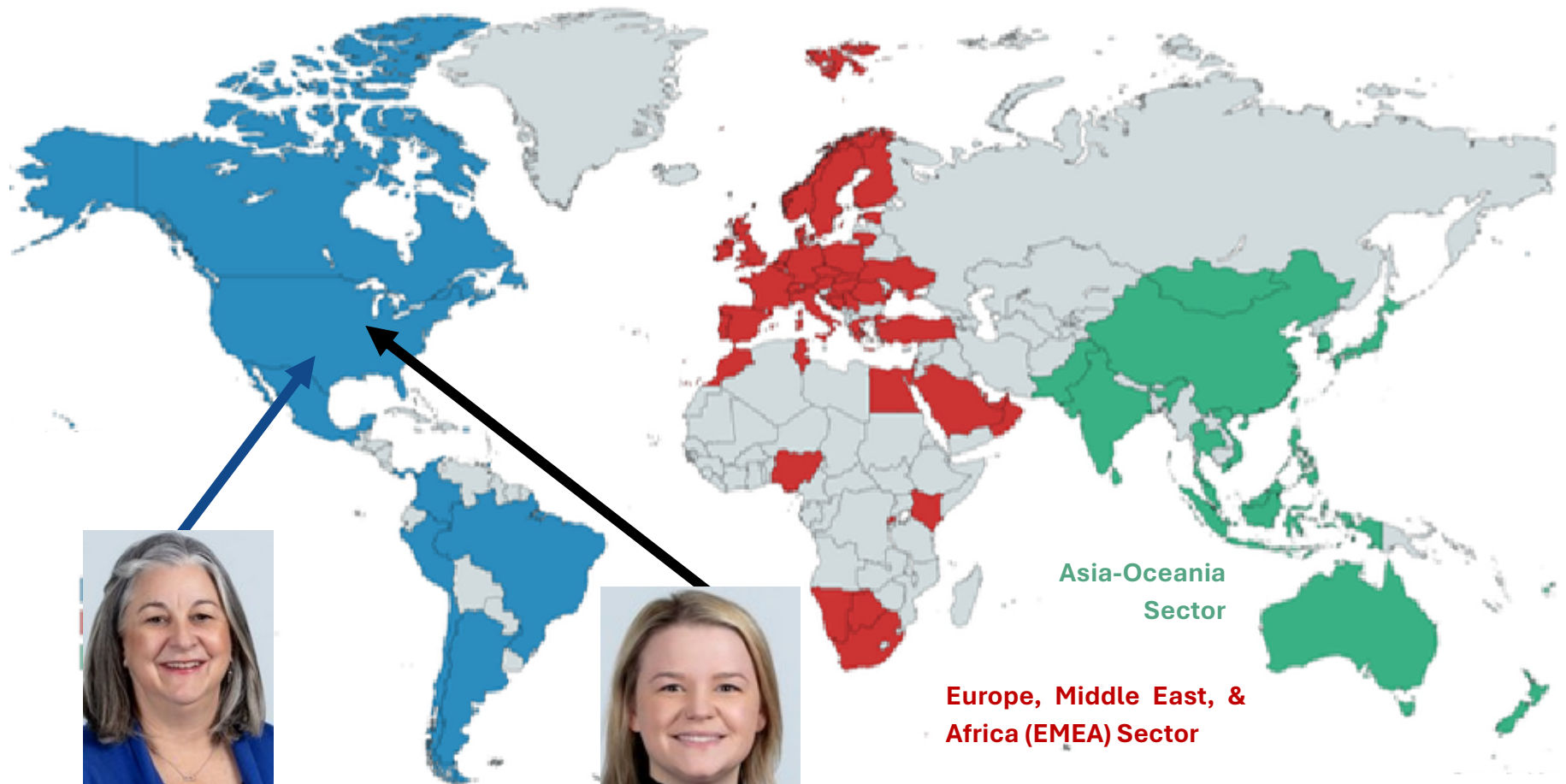
Members not selected this round will be maintained on a wait-list for future practitioner programs.

**Privacy Notice:** IntelliU will use contact information you elect to share, solely for communication related to the IntelliU Practitioner UAT Cohort selection and coordination. It will not be shared with third parties, distributed within the chapter, or used for marketing purposes. IntelliU will retain information collected only as long as necessary for this evaluation program.

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This overall, NSC survey is implemented in MS Forms, in four pages totaling 13 items. If repeating, please state so in **11. Member Value**, and if you are amending your previous responses, *etc.*

[To begin the survey, click here.](#)



Renee Steinwand  
**Americas Sector Director**



Kelly Henseler  
Marketing & Communications Director

Asia-Oceania  
Sector

Europe, Middle East, &  
Africa (EMEA) Sector

## 2026 NSC Leadership Team

**Warren Porter**  
Chapter President  
2026, ASEP



**Angela Robinson**  
President-Elect  
2027, ASEP



**Roz Dolid**  
Past President/  
Secretary, CSEP



**Ron Hannig**  
Director of  
Industry



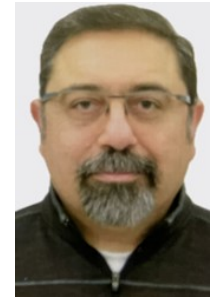
Technical  
Director

*open*

**Taconna Mhoon**  
Director of  
Communications



**Kousha Davoudi**  
Webmaster



**Bren Hall**  
Director of  
Membership  
Past President 2025/  
Director of Academia

*open*



**Mike Keyes**  
Treasurer



**Katherine Garvey**  
Past President  
2024



**Steve Untz**  
Past President  
2023



**John Palmer**  
Past President



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## References

[1] Federal Trade Commission (FTC), "FTC Issues Staff Report on Malicious Spam and Phishing" 28 Dec 2007, [www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2007/12/ftc-issues-staff-report-malicious-spam-phishing](http://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2007/12/ftc-issues-staff-report-malicious-spam-phishing), retrieved 21 Apr 2026.

[2] FTC, "Phishing Scams and How to Spot Them" [www.ftc.gov/news-events/topics/identity-theft/phishing-scams](http://www.ftc.gov/news-events/topics/identity-theft/phishing-scams), retrieved 21 Apr 2026.

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