

Welcome Letter



Welcome to the 2026 General Donald R. Keith Memorial Capstone Conference at West Point.

This conference is held in honor of General Keith, former Commanding General of the U.S. Army Materiel Development and Readiness Command, whose career exemplified excellence in research, development, and the integration of complex systems to advance Army capabilities. His leadership during the development of the Army's "Big Five" reflects the enduring importance of systems thinking, innovation, and disciplined analysis which are principles that remain central to how we prepare for the challenges of today and tomorrow.

We are proud to once again partner with the Society of Industrial and Systems Engineering to host this event as a regional conference. This year's 48 presentations showcase undergraduate research that applies systems engineering to complex, real-world problems from data-driven decision-making to the integration of emerging technologies to enable decisive action in increasingly complex operational environments.

As future Army officers, you will be called upon to operate in rapidly evolving and uncertain environments. The ability to think in systems, make informed decisions under uncertainty, and communicate effectively will be essential. The work presented here reflects those skills and highlights the critical role of systems engineering in shaping the future force.

This conference would not be possible without the support of many dedicated individuals and organizations. I extend my sincere appreciation to General Keith's family, the Society of Industrial and Systems Engineering, our panel of judges, and the faculty and staff who make this event possible.

Congratulations to all participating students. I hope you find this conference both rewarding and inspiring as you continue your journey of service and leadership.

All Systems Go!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julia Coxen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

JULIA O. COXEN
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Head, Department of Systems Engineering