

# 2026 Aviation Safety Symposium

## Metropolitan State University of Denver

Date: Friday May 1, 2026

Time: 0900 - 1600

Location: MSU Denver (Tivoli Room 320)

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### Event Schedule

10:00 - 10:10

Opening Remarks - Alpha Eta Rho  
Why Aviation Safety Matters Before Your Career Begins

10:10 - 10:40

Aeromedical (Laurie Freeman, PA-C)  
The Human Body as the First Safety Limitation

10:40 - 11:10

Air Traffic Control (Prof. Thomas Obarski)  
Safety Through Communication and Separation

11:10 - 11:40

Chief Pilot (Col. Jeff York, USAF Ret.)  
Judgment, Professionalism, and Career Survival

11:40 - 12:10

High-Performance Military Aviation  
(Dr. Samantha Weeks)  
Discipline and Risk Management in High-Performance Flight

12:10 - 12:40

Lunch Break / Informal Networking

12:40 - 1:10

MSU Denver Aerobatics Team (Tentative)  
Precision, Discipline, and Controlled Risk

1:10 - 1:40

Boeing Representative (TBD)  
Safety by Design – Engineering and Risk Mitigation

1:40 - 2:10

NTSB Investigator (Jennifer Rodi)  
How Accidents Are Built and Investigated

2:10 - 2:40

Panel Discussion - All Speakers  
Safety Is a System, Not a Single Decision

2:40 - 3:00

Student Q&A and Open Discussion

3:00 - 3:10

Closing Remarks

### Why Attend?

Explore aviation safety as a system from human performance and communication to leadership, aircraft design, and accident investigation. Hear directly from professionals who operate, train, and investigate in real-world aviation environments.

### Featured Speakers

- Colonel Jeff York, USAF (Ret.) - Chief Pilot
- Dr. Samantha Weeks, Colonel, USAF (Ret.) - Second female Thunderbird pilot & first female inverted solo pilot
- Laurie Freeman, PA-C - U.S. Army Aviation Medical Physician Assistant (Aeromedical)
- Professor Thomas Obarski - Air Traffic Control
- Jennifer Rodi - NTSB Investigator
- MSU Denver Aerobatics Team
- Boeing

### Student Takeaway

Aviation safety is not about avoiding mistakes it is about managing risk across an entire system.

Hosted by: Alpha Eta Rho - Sigma Phi Chapter  
College of Aviation & Aerospace Science, MSU Denver

\*\*\*(Breakfast and lunch provided. Schedule subject to minor adjustments.)

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