

For IEEE-USA President-Elect, 2019 IEEE-USA President, 2020



JAMES M. CONRAD
(Nominated by IEEE-USA)

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James Conrad has spent an equal amount of time working in industry and academia. He received his bachelor's degree in computer science from the University of Illinois, Urbana, and his master's and doctorate degrees in computer engineering from North Carolina State University. He is currently a professor at the UNC Charlotte and Associate Department Chair. He has served as an assistant professor at the University of Arkansas and as an instructor at North Carolina State University. He has worked for IBM, Ericsson/Sony Ericsson, and two start-up companies.

He teaches and conducts research in the areas of embedded systems, robotics, parallel processing, artificial intelligence, and engineering education. He has published eight books in the field of embedded systems and robotics.

Dr. Conrad also serves IEEE as an ABET Program Evaluator, and serves the community on the Board of Directors for FIRST North Carolina, the state organization supporting the FIRST Robotics program.

IEEE Accomplishments and Activities (S'85-M'92-SM'97)

COMMITTEES/BOARDS:

- IEEE-HKN Board of Governors 2018.
- IEEE Board of Directors, Region 3 Director/Delegate 2016-2017 (IEEE Director-Elect 2014-2015).
- IEEE-USA Board of Directors 2016-2017.
- IEEE Board of Directors Liaison to the IEEE Foundation, 2016-2017.
- IEEE MGA FinCom 2016.
- IEEE MGA OpCom 2017.

REGIONS:

- IEEE MOVE Project Charter Volunteer, 2014-present.
- IEEE Region 3, Conferences Committee Vice-Chair, 2011-2013.
- IEEE, NC Council, Chair 2008-2009

SECTIONS/CHAPTERS:

- IEEE Education Society, Charlotte Chapter, Chair 2007-present.
- IEEE, Charlotte Section, Chair, 2006-2007.
- IEEE Eastern NC Section Volunteer, 2001-2003.
- IEEE Computer Society, Charlotte Chapter, Chair 2005.

STUDENT BRANCHES:

- Advisor, UNC Charlotte Robotics and Automation Society Student Branch, 2008-present.
- Counselor, UNC Charlotte IEEE Student Chapter, 2004-2009.

SOCIETIES:

- IEEE Computer Society, Press Operations Committee, 2002-2009.
- IEEE Computer Society, Membership Activities Board, Student Activities Committee, 1993–1995.
- Associate Editor-in-Chief, *IEEE Computing Futures Magazine*, 1990-1991.

CONFERENCES:

- General Chair, 2010 IEEE SoutheastCon.
- Co-Program Chair, 2009 IEEE/ACM International Symposium on Modeling, Analysis and Simulation of Computer and Telecommunication Systems.
- Technical Program Committee member for many IEEE sponsored conferences.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- I led Region 3 to concentrate on member engagement, Senior Member Elevation, and service to the community. In 2016, Region 3 was the US leader in membership retention rate and Senior Member Recognition rate.
- I provided leadership for the IEEE MOVE project through active participation in all aspect of the development/operations of vehicle and outreach activities. Have included students in the development and maintenance of the vehicle.
- I organized the Region 3 SoutheastCon 2010 conference to include extensive industry participation and opportunities for professional development. Expanded the offerings available to students in technical and professional development topics. The conference included the most number of open tutorials and workshops, as well as the largest industry exhibition (including a job-fair for students) in recent SoutheastCon history.

Statement

I'm a proud member of the IEEE, but I also belong to another professional organization that is growing each year. They offer fantastic opportunities for professional development via seemingly daily webinars. Local chapters have 100 members attend meetings. They never talk about membership retention - it is not a problem.

Now compare this organization with the IEEE, especially in the USA. Why must we constantly convince our members to renew each year? Are we REALLY providing our members the opportunities they need to be successful? Do we really encourage our member to take part in all of the professional development activities available? Do we truly engage our members in the profession?

As a Region Director I examined these larger, systemic problems of the IEEE and worked towards revolutionary changes to better serve members. I was able to lead our region towards the goal of better member engagement through our Senior Member recognition program, projects like the MOVE vehicle, and encouraging closer involvement between the student branches and Sections.

I would like to continue these activities on a USA-wide platform, while continuing IEEE-USA's involvement in government relations. IEEE-USA needs to ensure our members' skills and knowledge stays relevant in this rapidly changing technology landscape.