



James Nelson

Area 4 Director

Strategic Growth and Investment, The Boeing Co.

James is a Senior Manager responsible for Boeing Phantom Works Special Programs and Capabilities growth and development. He works across a diverse technology development portfolio to develop innovative technologies and transition them to Boeing products and services. From 2017-2020 he worked in the Boeing Dayton, OH office focused on Air Force partner engagements at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. He supported all of Boeing's Air Force Research Lab (AFRL) engagements from the commander level down to technical engineer one-on-one discussions. James also supported Air Force Life Cycle Management Center (AFLCMC) developmental programs, and facilitated senior officer and Boeing executive level meetings. He spent the first 14 years of his career working on a variety of projects as an engineer in Boeing Defense Space and Security programs in St. Louis, MO.

Prior to joining Boeing, James worked as an Assistant Race Engineer from 1999- 2001 for several NASCAR racing teams in Charlotte, NC. He was responsible for all data acquisition and testing support for three different professional race teams. In those roles he performed vehicle dynamics modeling and testing, race day strategy, and testing support for all on track and wind tunnel tests.

James has earned a bachelors in mechanical engineering in 1999 and a masters in mechanical engineering in 2003 from Missouri S&T. James also holds a Professional Engineer license from the State of Missouri.

James volunteers time with the Boeing-Missouri Science &Technology (S&T) Campus Team where he coordinated requests for Boeing speakers on the S&T campus. He has presented to student groups, mentored students and student design teams, and attends the bi-annual Boeing Day on the campus as a classroom presenter and volunteer. He volunteers annually to serve as competition judge at FIRST Robotic regional championship competitions.

James is married to Sara who has two bachelors degrees from Missouri S&T (Geology & Geophysics (1999) and Civil Engineering (2004)). She works for Saint Charles County in the Roads and Traffic department overseeing all roadway projects within the County. James interests outside of work include bicycle riding and racing, participating in amateur motorsports events, occasionally officiating soccer games, and keeping up with two teenage daughters and all their soccer games!