

**APS/PHYS PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT SERIES PRESENTS:**

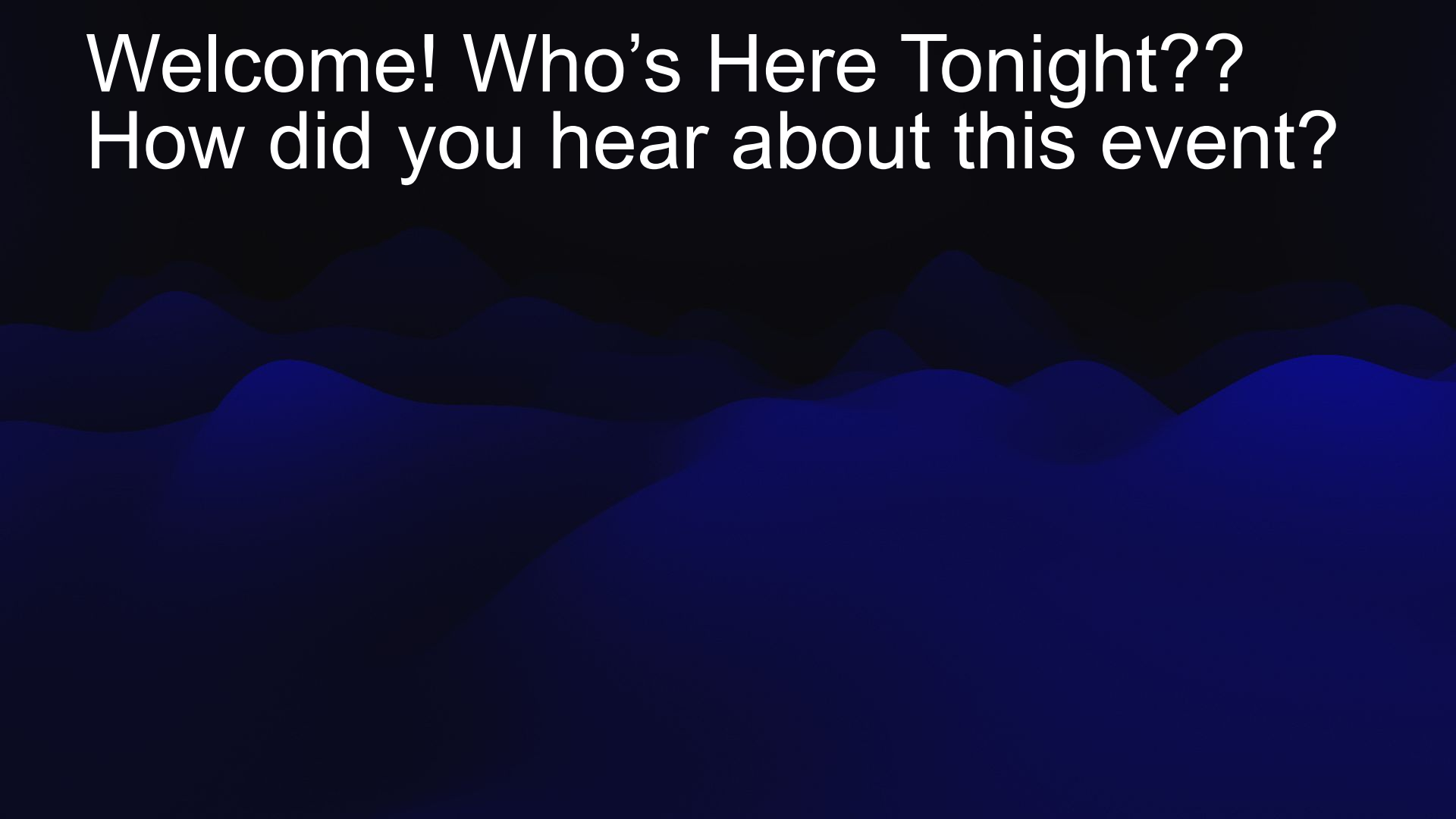
CAREERS IN AEROSPACE AND INDUSTRY

**APRIL 1
DUANE G130
5-6PM**

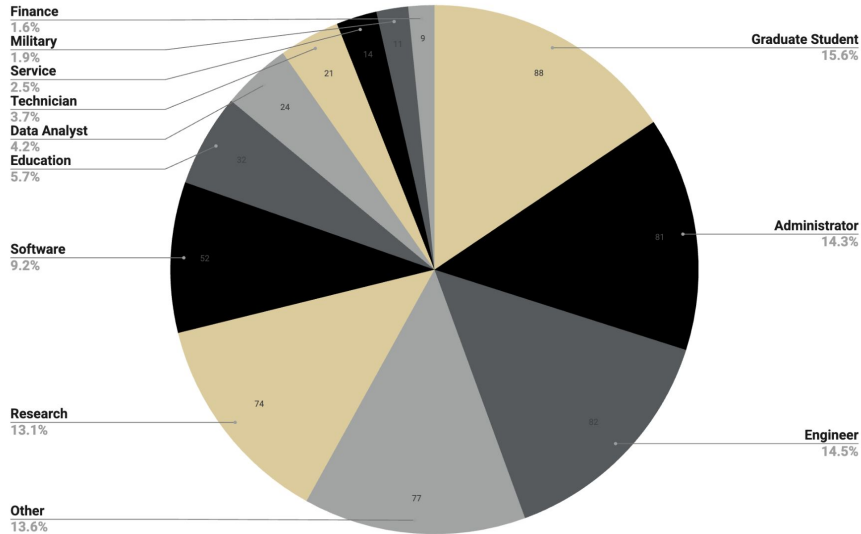
**PIZZA WILL
BE PROVIDED!**

- Kaitlin Engelbert - APS '19 BAE (formerly Ball Aerospace)
- Cole Alexander, APS '23, Lockheed Martin
- Kevin Loeffler - PHYS '17, Infleqion

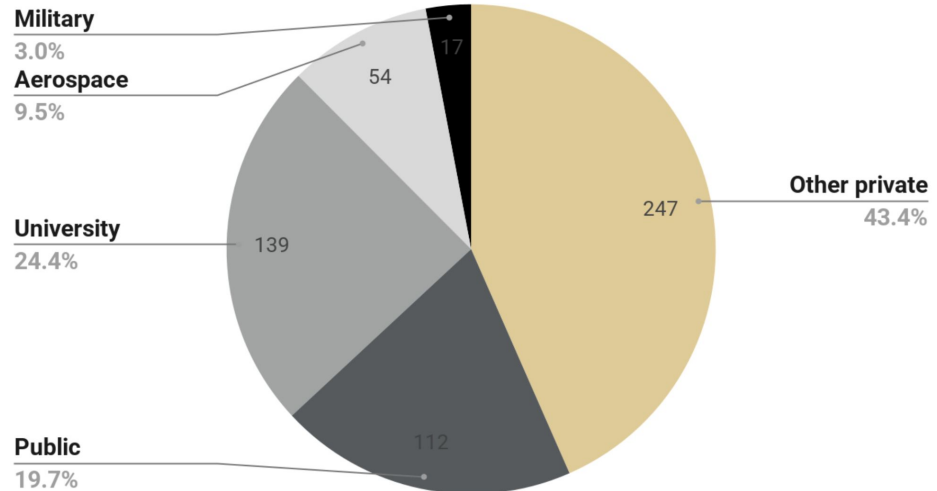
Welcome! Who's Here Tonight??
How did you hear about this event?



APS Graduates Career Paths



Sector of the Economy



By the numbers: Colorado ranks [No. 1 nationally](#) in per capita aerospace employment.

- More than 2,000 aerospace companies operate in the state.
- The industry employs 55,000 people directly and another 184,000 indirectly.

Who am I – Cole Alexander



Education:

- Bachelors from CU in Astronomy and Planetary Sciences
- Minors in Communications and Space
- Pursuing Masters of Engineering in Engineering Management from CU

My career path:

- Project Engineering Intern ('22): Full Stack Software Engineering, Emerging technology research
- Technical Strategy Project Engineer: Digital Transformation for LM programs (1LMX), Agile Scrum Master
- CDM Project Engineer: Digital Transformation Deployments to Space programs, Data Engineering & Management
- Deputy Project Manager for DX: Process & Strategy Authoring, PM scope: Planning, Risk Mgmt, Stakeholder/Exec engagement, etc.



Disclaimer: This and the following slide are based on my own experience and advice. Anything I share shouldn't be assumed as the opinion or policy of Lockheed Martin.

Experience & Advice

Application from APS experience:

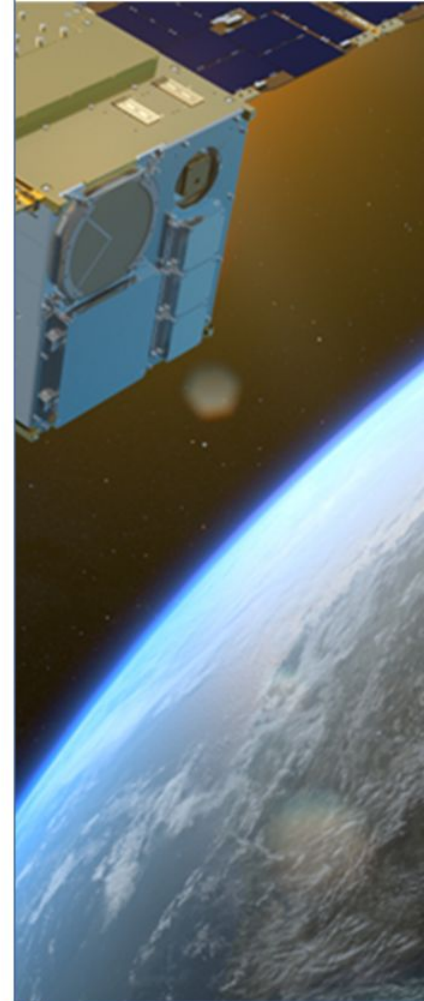
- Technical skills are highly valued (Code, Data Analysis, CAD, etc.)
- Orbits, Optics, Hardware – APS can teach you some of these
- Common career path: APS -> Software or Systems Engineer

Finding opportunities:

- Start way earlier than you think. Some companies could be starting 2027 planning right now.
- Getting a role is more about who you know than what you know.
- Internships are where you learn, don't expect to have every qualification.

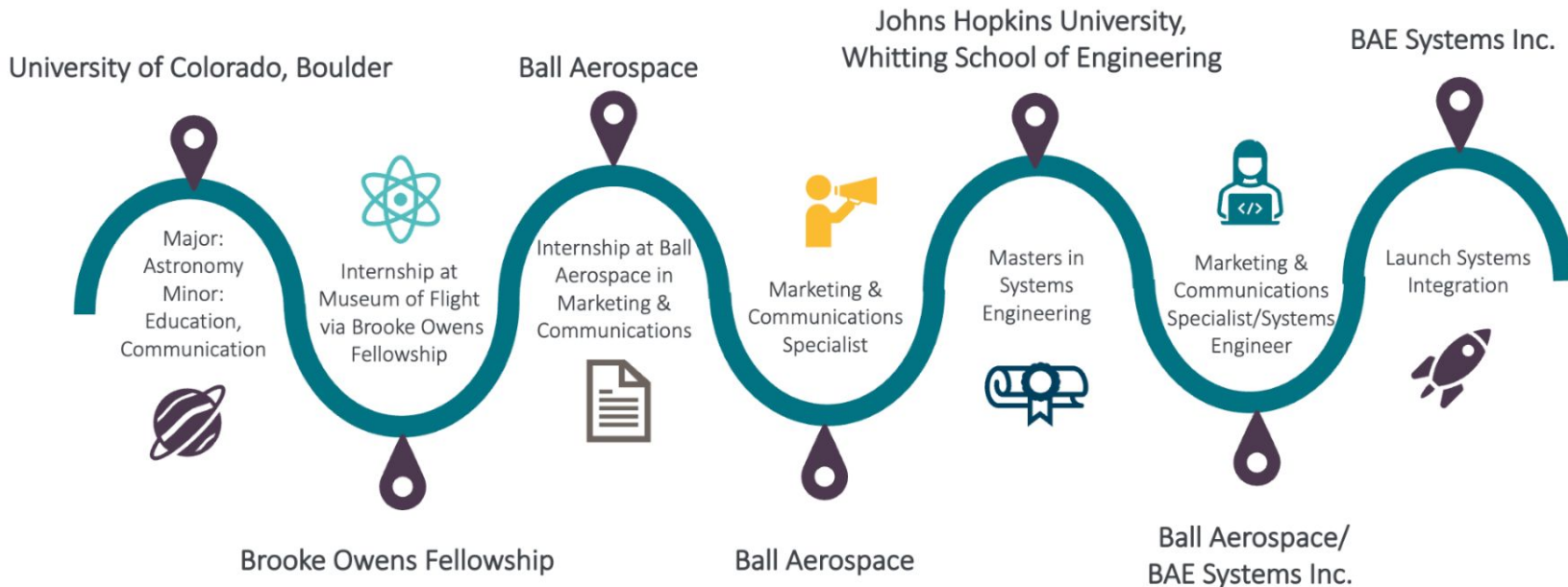
Career Advice:

- “You're going to find out what you don't like more often than what you do.”
- Learn how to communicate information to others in a simple way, this simple skill can take you higher than most people.
- Be passionate about something, it will reward you.



Careers Are Not Linear

Kaitlin Engelbert | Sr. Systems Engineer, BAE Systems Inc.



Kevin Loeffler

Senior Software Engineer at Infleqtion

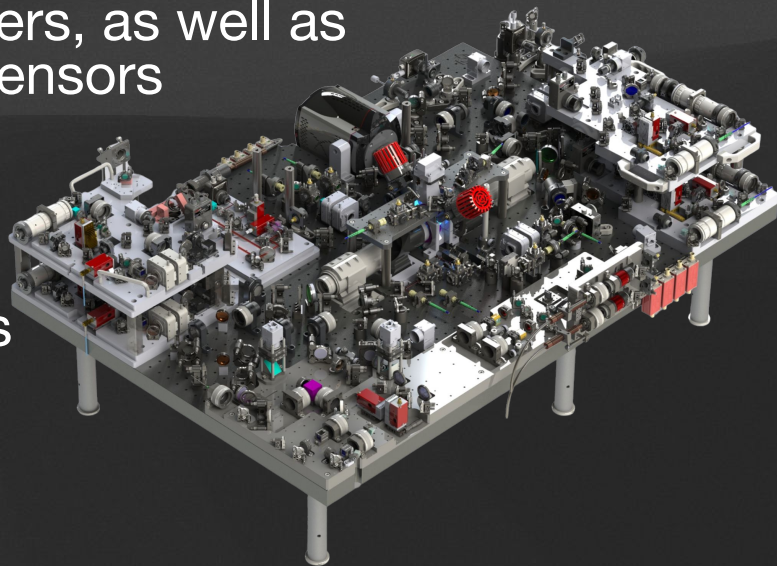


What is Infleqtion

- Quantum startup in Louisville/Boulder
- Builds neutral atom quantum computers, as well as atomic clocks, RF receivers, inertial sensors

PHYS to Control Software

- Problem solving
- Machining, electronics, software skills
- Research
- Literature reviews



Kevin Loeffler

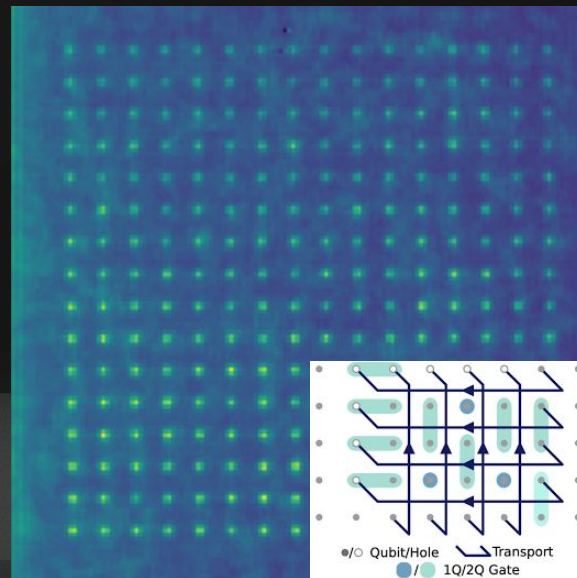
Life in the Quantum Industry

They don't think you exist

- “You'll never find a _____ with AMO experience”

Quantum in Colorado

- Strong recruitment pipeline out of CU and JILA
- Elevate Quantum
- Opportunities across disciplines
 - Software (and quantum software!)
 - Systems
 - Optomechanical
 - Theory



Upcoming ASTR/PHYS Professional Development Events

All in G130, 5-6pm, Wednesdays – with pizza!

- 15 April: Applying for Jobs

ASTR/PHYS students: read your weekly emails!

Everyone: check our departmental websites

<https://www.colorado.edu/aps>

<https://www.colorado.edu/physics>

