

To: Region 3 ExCom  
From: Eric Grigorian, Region 3 Director  
Subject: Director Report  
Date: 26 January 2025

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year to all. Hope you all had a great Holiday celebration with family and friends and are now fully engaged and ready for the busy activities in 2025! Since our last ExCom meeting, the Region has been active on many fronts. Early in December Region 3 hosted the Innovation, Workforce, and Research Conference (IWRC) that brought together stakeholders from industry, government, and academia in Huntsville, Alabama, to meet, learn, and discuss the CHIPS Act and other government programs that promote innovation and small business in the southeast. In advance of IWRC, the event included a DoD roundtable, bringing together DoD and local industry leaders in conversations on how to work with DoD. We also held the Region's strategic planning meeting in December at the same site of SoutheastCon 2025, establishing our goals for 2025. The theme for 2025 is "Engaging New Leadership" as the intent is to work with our students and YP in 2025 and get them involved with local section and regional capacities. The intent is to help sections with identifying and recruiting new members into new leadership roles.

The year started with the release of IEEE's 2025-2030, [IEEE Strategic Plan](#), introducing six new goals that reinforce the IEEE mission to advance technology for the benefit of humanity. The plan was developed through extensive community input, including stakeholder interviews, global focus groups, and a survey of more than 35,000 individuals.

Also, Region 6's Rising Stars which included participation of YP's from many IEEE Regions, including great representation by Region 3, re-enforced the need to expand interaction with students and YPs. This was the 11th anniversary of Rising Stars and it was filled with energy by students and YP from several IEEE Regions, with over 350 participants which far exceeded Region 6 organizers' expectations. Other regions, particularly Region 1, 2, and 9 are looking at establishing a similar events, and Region 3 needs to evaluate if we need to incorporate such an as part of SoutheastCon or evaluate other options. Region 1 + 2 are potentially interested in joining Region 3 and creating a Rising Stars – East, if a separate event, or combining it with SoutheastCon.

## IEEE **2025-2030** Strategic Plan

**Advance science and technology** as a leading trusted source of information for research, development, standards, and public policy

**Drive technological innovation** while promoting scientific integrity and the ethical development and use of technology

**Provide opportunities** for technology-related interdisciplinary collaboration, research, and knowledge sharing across industry, academia, and government

**Inspire intellectual curiosity** and support discovery and invention to engage the next generation of technology innovators

**Expand public awareness** of the significant role that engineering, science, and technology play across the globe

**Empower technology professionals** in their careers through ongoing education, mentoring, networking, and lifelong engagement

[www.ieee.org/strategic-plan](http://www.ieee.org/strategic-plan)

Approved by the IEEE Board of Directors, November 2024



IEEE-USA Board of Director's retreat also occurs during the same weekend and along with the Rising Stars, and this year was no different. Timothy Lee, 2025 IEEE-USA President, highlighted his goals for 2025, with particular attention to support for IWRC and CHIPS Act. Additionally, emphasis was placed on participation by all USA Regions in the upcoming Congressional Visit Day, requesting encouragement by all sections to consider supporting participation by at least one member, preferably a YP.

IEEE-USA BoD meeting was followed by IEEE BoD strategic planning retreat. President & CEO of IEEE, Kathleen Kramer, is very much concentrating her efforts toward engagement at various level, particularly, with students and YP, as several students from various regions, including Region 3, were invited to the retreat and were included as part of a panel discussion. The retreat also included moderation by McKinley with various topics and exercises geared toward enhancing IEEE's strategy moving forward.

January 2025 is still not over yet, and we have plenty of new activities to tackle. Next IEEE BoD Series is scheduled for mid-February, and of course, our premier event, SoutheastCon 2025 is shaping up to be a great event at the end of March. The hosting committee is actively busy to welcome everyone to Charlotte, Concord to be exact! If you have not yet registered for the conference, please do not hesitate to register now at <https://ieeesoutheastcon.org/> as early registration and hotel room block deadline is February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025. As usual, Region 3 will cover the cost of each Section's primary delegate for early registration.