

## **Welcome Letter**



It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to the 2024 General Donald R. Keith Memorial Capstone Conference at West Point!

The conference is named in honor of General Keith, Former Commanding General, U.S. Army Material Development and Readiness Command, and a leader in research and development throughout his military career. We are pleased to once again partner with the Society of Industrial and Systems Engineering to hold these proceedings as a Regional Conference. This year we are excited to welcome 68 undergraduate presentations from students, cadets, and midshipmen from Binghamton University, George Mason University, Columbia University, United States Air Force Academy, United States Military Academy, and United States Naval Academy.

We are honored to welcome Mr. Michael Parrish, Chief Acquisition Officer and Principal Executive Director for the Office of Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction (OALC) for the Department of Veterans Affairs, as the keynote speaker at the Awards Banquet. Mr. Parrish has over 35 years of senior leadership experience in the military, government, corporate, and non-profit organizations to include the Managing Director for GE Capital specializing in ecommerce, six sigma, and productivity of several of GE's equipment management groups.

During your visit, we welcome you to tour the campus to learn more about the historic local area and the beautiful grounds and structures that make up the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point. There is a scheduled walking tour on Thursday at 3:30 pm leaving from the first floor of Jefferson Hall.

I am extremely grateful for the team that made this conference possible. A special thank you to General Keith's family for the generous endowment that allows our Department to run this exciting event every year, to the Society of Industrial and Systems Engineering, the professional panel of judges, to the staff and faculty of the Department of Systems Engineering, and to the Systems Design and Analysis Center.

Congratulations to all the students and thank you for sharing your research. I hope that you enjoy your time while attending the 2024 General Donald R. Keith Memorial Capstone Conference.

All Systems Go!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julia Coxen'.

JULIA O. COXEN  
COL, Professor U.S. Military Academy  
Head, Department of Systems Engineering