

## April 2026 CHMI Semiannual Meeting Summary

The Center for Composite and Hybrid Materials Interfacing (CHMI), an NSF Industry–University Cooperative Research Center (I/UCRC), held its Spring 2026 Semiannual Meeting on April 8 and 9, 2026 in Rochester, Michigan. The meeting was hosted by Oakland University and brought together faculty, students, industry partners, and government representatives from CHMI’s three sites, Georgia Institute of Technology (GT), which serves as the lead site, Oakland University (OU), and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK). The meeting provided an opportunity to review research progress, engage with industry members, and discuss future directions for the center.

### Attendance Overview

The meeting drew strong participation from across CHMI’s academic and industrial community, with both in-person and virtual engagement.

- **Total attendance:** Over 45 participants
- **NSF participation:**
  - Dr. Stephanie Shipp, NSF Evaluator (in person)
  - Dr. Debasis Majumdar, NSF Program Director (virtual)
- **Industry Advisory Board (IAB):**
  - Representatives from 11 IAB member organizations, including aerospace, automotive, energy, and materials sectors
  - 13 IAB representatives participated in person and virtually
- **Faculty and staff:** 17
- **Students:** 15 (graduate students from GT, OU, and UTK)
- **Guests:** 4, including invited speakers and government representatives

Industry member organizations represented included Delta Air Lines, Hexcel, Syensqo, Lockheed Martin, Dominion Energy, Endeavor Composites, DB Technology, OnSite Partners, PXF Consulting, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (UT-Battelle), and Specialty Materials, among others.

### Pre-Meeting Activities

The meeting activities began on the evening of April 7, 2026, with a welcome dinner for IAB members and faculty. This informal event provided opportunities for networking and discussion ahead of the formal meeting sessions.

### Opening Remarks and Center Updates

The meeting officially opened on the morning of April 8 with welcoming remarks from Dr. Sayed Nassar, as the OU Site Director and host of this meeting. The opening session included remarks from the IAB Chair, Mr. Nathan Schulz followed by an overview of CHMI activities and status provided by the CHMI leadership team. Dr. David A. Stone, OU’s Vice President for Research, welcomed attendees and highlighted OU’s role as a CHMI site and host institution.

The Center Update reviewed CHMI’s membership status, ongoing projects, and coordination among the three participating universities. Updates emphasized CHMI’s cross-site collaboration model and continued engagement of students in industry-relevant research.

### Day 1 Highlights – Technical Presentations and Posters

Day 1 centered on CHMI research activities and industry engagement. The technical program included **six project presentations**, organized into two sessions. Each project was presented with time allocated for discussion and questions from IAB members and faculty. The projects represented

collaborative efforts across universities and, in some cases, in partnership with national laboratories, highlighting the center’s multi-institutional approach to composite and hybrid materials interfacing.

Following the technical sessions, the meeting featured a **student poster session**, where graduate students presented research related to CHMI projects. The poster session encouraged direct interaction between students and industry representatives, allowing students to discuss technical approaches, experimental results, and potential applications.

Day 1 also included separate **closed sessions** for the IAB and for faculty. These parallel sessions allowed IAB members to discuss center activities and provided faculty an opportunity to coordinate across sites and discuss ongoing and future research planning.

The day concluded with a **social networking event at Topgolf**, providing an informal setting for continued interaction among students, faculty, and industry participants.

## **Day 2 Highlights – Poster Award Ceremony, Roadmapping, and Industry Engagement**

Day 2 began with announcements of **student poster competition results**, recognizing outstanding student contributions. The poster competition highlighted CHMI’s emphasis on student training and professional development.

The morning session focused on **roadmap and strategic outlook discussions**, during which participants reviewed CHMI’s research directions and future planning. This session included open discussion among faculty and IAB members, addressing emerging technical opportunities, cross-cutting research themes, and coordination across sites.

Following a second closed IAB session, the meeting continued with an **industry lunch presentation** by Mr. Jim Leidel, invited speaker from DTE Energy, providing additional industry perspective and fostering discussion on applied challenges relevant to CHMI research.

In the afternoon, the meeting featured with **IAB-Student breakout sessions**, where students met in small groups with industry representatives. These sessions focused on career pathways, industry needs, and professional development, and provided students with direct exposure to industry perspectives and expectations.

## **Closing Remarks**

The meeting concluded with summary remarks from the IAB Chair (Nathan Schulz) and representatives of all three CHMI university sites—GT, OU, and UTK. Participants reflected on the technical discussions, student engagement, and collaborative atmosphere of the meeting. Appreciation was expressed to Oakland University for hosting the meeting and to all participants for their contributions.

The April 2026 meeting marked an important milestone for CHMI, reinforcing the center’s mission to advance composite and hybrid materials interfacing through collaborative, industry engaged research and student training.

## **Acknowledgements and Next Steps**

CHMI thanks **Oakland University** for hosting the Spring 2026 Semiannual Meeting, the **Industry Advisory Board (IAB)** members for their active participation, and the **students and faculty** whose efforts contributed to a productive and engaging event. Planning is underway for the next CHMI Semiannual Meeting, scheduled to take place in October 2026 at Georgia Institute of Technology.

CHMI gratefully acknowledges the **Nassar Foundation** for the generous sponsorship of the student poster competition, including cash awards that recognized outstanding student poster presentations.

**Selected photos from this meeting attached, starting from the next page**



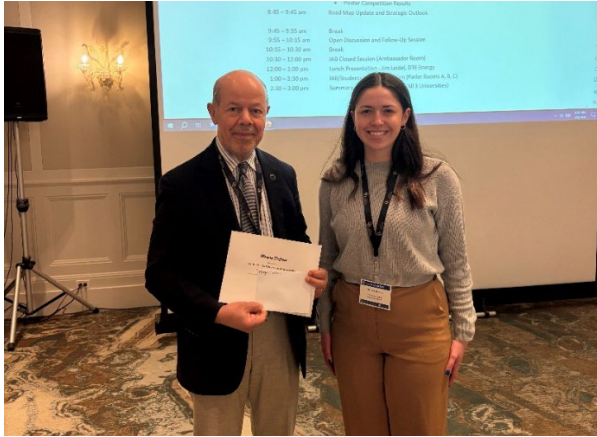
Group Photo with Virtual Participants in the Background



Poster Session: Student Interacting with IAB Members/Representatives



Ms. Adwoa K. Owusu (Middle; UTK Site) Receiving First-Place Poster Award



Ms. Morgan DeCroix (Right; OU Site)  
Receiving Second-Place Poster Award



Mr. Yifeng Wang (Right; GT Site) Receiving  
Third-Place Poster Award



Roadmap Discussion Breakout Session with  
four Roundtable Groups



Mr. Nathan Schulz (IAB Chair) Giving  
Closing Remarks