2017 March Storm Legislative Blitz
Paul Corda, Angelica Gould, Amador Salinas, Michael Weinhoffer
Applied Aviation Sciences Department

Abstract
This project examines legislative advocacy tactics and advocate training procedures during a weeklong legislative blitz on Capitol Hill. Through applied research in the planning, execution, and results of citizen advocacy, the impact of a legislative campaign will be examined. Upon the resolution of the blitz, organizers will follow up with congressional staff to monitor the results of the specific asks made. The entire process will be analyzed and a critique offered. This research, which will be included in the overall group presentation by the students who are going to March Storm, involves the efforts of the branches of the Federal Government in producing space legislation that will then be placed into the United States Code and the Code of Federal Regulations. Research will include how the statutes affect the policy of the United States for operating in space and the direction it gives to its federal agencies to do so.

Daily Activities
Our day started at Rayburn House office building cafeteria every morning. From there we would receive our assignments and gather with our group members to tackle the day. Teams were assigned either the House side or the Senate side for the day so that running back and forth between office buildings was minimal. Even though we were kept on one side of the Capitol each member of the group walked close to 6 or 7 miles a day between buildings! Teams averaged about 4 members per team and got to meet with 6 or 7 offices a day. When we arrived at an office we would meet with a staffer and brief them on the legislation we were lobbying for. Most meetings only lasted 20-25 minutes. Some meetings only lasted 5 minutes and were conducted out in the hallway when the staffer was short on time! In the end, we collectively felt like we made an impact and really got our nation’s governments thinking about space!

Summary
The main goal of the blitz was to promote the 2017 “Citizen’s Space Agenda,” which was drafted by the Alliance for Space Development, to congressional staffers. All four objectives included a specific request to the staffer, and while which was drafted by the Alliance for Space Development, to congressional staff to discuss these issues related to the draft legislation being lobbied by the participants. March Storm participants took particular interest in having meetings with representatives who were part of the House Appropriations Committee and the Committee on Science, Space and Technology. These committees affect what space policy is developed, and how much is allocated towards these programs in relation to space on the House side of the Congress. For the Senate, participants took particular interest in meeting with senators who are on the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, and the Committee on the Budget.

March Storm Participants in front of the United States Capitol building

March Storm Participants in front of the United States Capitol building

Amador Salinas with a March Storm Veteran

Paul Corda and Angelica Gould meeting with the House Space Subcommittee Majority Staff

March Storm Participants in front of the United States Capitol building

Acknowledgments
We would like to extend our gratitude to Dr. Howard and the Office of Undergraduate Research for sponsoring this trip.