



Photo Credits: IEEE R4 & R6 Joint Meeting 2026

IEEE FOOTHILL SECTION

January–February 2026
Bi-Monthly Newsletter

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IEEE Foothill January ExCom/OpCom Monthly Hybrid Meeting

The IEEE Foothill Section held its January ExCom/OpCom Monthly Hybrid Meeting on January 13 via Zoom and in-person at DeVry University in Ontario. The secretary, Prof. Herder, gave an update about the status of the section election. With the help of Art Sutton, Chair of the election committee, are diligently working to implement the new IEEE Procedures.

The chair also reminded us about the SusTech 2026, which will be held in Santa Ana, CA, from April 19-22, 2026, and the MATHCOUNTS on Feb. 28, 2026, in San Marino, CA. We also had Saul Williamson from Coachella Valley, who wants to establish a YP Sub-section in the area, and the section supports it.

The R4 & R6 Regional Joint Meeting is set from January 30 to February 1st in Tempe, AZ. The section's secretary will attend in behalf of the chair and the section.



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Membership Development

Kim Mosley was unable to report; however, she sent the chair an update on the membership status. Membership total is 1063 with 17 new members. For student membership, we had a total of 166 and only 6 new members added.

Social Media and Website

Osman Ceylan is working to update the website. Students and technical society groups should contact him if they need assistance with the website. Our new LinkedIn page has been performing well lately, with new members sending invitations to join and encouraging members to consistently post updates about their chapter/group on their respective platforms to promote IEEE and the section.

Technical Committees

MTT. Scott Wedge reported. Scott asked Osman to report on ideas for working with students, including MTT-sponsored events/presentations, and quarterly visits to student sections. Osman is attending the RRW meeting, while Jerry and Max are likely to attend the RRW Conference on January 16, 2026, in Hollywood, CA. Osman noted IMS Student Design Competition information has been published. Chiplet Summit and DesignCon are also upcoming in January and February. The chair reminded the members that the section is willing to pay for one day fee.

Ed/CAS. Bo Chen reported. Bo updated the chapter on current efforts, including webinars and the extension of last year's IP talks. Richard Fung is coordinating a joint-sponsored EDS webinar on the "Evolution of MOS Device Architecture," including 3D stacks in Si and Ge, on January 14, 2026.

ComSoc. Tamer Omar, The After School Engineering Academy, currently working with Walnut HS, reported that MKR 1010 Wi-Fi had some issues. Dr. Omar is proposing an International IEEE Conference on Smart Connected Systems and Emerging Technologies; the acronym will need to be changed due to previous usage. Planning will run from January to October 26, and the event will be in December. IEEE requires a non-profit partner. Kick-off meeting held on January 8th. The conference website was created as a template. The Student Competition eCTF (CPP student group) has 30 students registered. They are purchasing a TI MSP board for testing.

CS. Nazila Safavi is the new chair for the chapter and the Local Blockchain Group. She's coming up to speed on the Computer Society activities.

YP. Sachin Hiriyanna reported. He and Adesola attended the Rising Stars 2026 in Las Vegas. They attended various sessions and met Joseph Wei, the Region 6 director, and IEEE-USA President Mary Ellen Randall. They have been able to plan two events. They are working on new events this year. They plan to work with Saul Williamson to support the event.



Prof. Nazila Safavi | BCS, MSEE, PhD
(CS & Local Blockchain Group New Chair)

Nazila is a Senior Member of IEEE and a professor of Engineering, Computer Science, and Information Technology at DeVry University-Ontario. She has been actively leading the IEEE DeVry University-SoCal Student Branch since 2020, where she focused on building interdisciplinary collaboration and industry-related technical programming.

Her professional background spans both academia and industry, with experience in computer science, telecommunications, cybersecurity, and emerging technologies. Prof. Safavi is particularly passionate about blockchain, AI, and the intersection of computing technologies with real-world systems and education. She regularly mentors students on technical projects and research, and has organized numerous IEEE technical talks, workshops, and collaborative events.

She looks forward to expanding technical activities, fostering collaboration between professionals and students, and strengthening the local IEEE Community.

YP. Sachin Hiriyanna reported. He said they plan to hold a get-together with the YP Group, and the section supports that. Adesola added that they are looking for active volunteers who can support them at every event. Saul was unable to attend the meeting, so we don't yet know the status with Cathedral City.

Rising Stars 2026

By: Abiola Adams & Sachin Hiriyanna

The IEEE Rising Stars 2026 Conference brought together students, Young Professionals, and industry leaders for two days of technical learning, leadership development, and community engagement. As a key initiative within IEEE Region 6, the event reflected IEEE's ongoing commitment to advancing technology and empowering emerging professionals.

Programming began at 9:00 AM with concurrent sessions across the Galleria and Lotus rooms. Featured topics included Digital Twins and Reality Modeling (Bentley Systems), the Young Professionals Leadership Workshop with industry speakers, Student Activities sessions, and the interactive Zombie Apocalypse Workshop.

The Project Showcase Display demonstrated impressive student innovation and applied engineering solutions. After lunch, DigiKey, in collaboration with Microchip and Arduino, hosted a hands-on technical workshop that encouraged interactive participation.



With the Director of IEEE Region 6, Joseph Wei



Abi and Sachin at the IEEE Rising Stars, Luxor Hotel



Day 2 opened with a 5K Run, followed by breakfast and the official opening session, which included the 2026 Pitch Competition and a keynote on "AI in Hollywood." The FCC Exam was also administered for participants seeking certification.

Additional sessions covered innovation in accessible design, digital storage technologies, entrepreneurship, IEEE standards, AI governance, leadership development, public speaking, and AI-powered cybersecurity topics. Project judging and sponsorship activities maintained strong engagement throughout the day. Rising Stars 2026 successfully embodied IEEE's mission of advancing technology for humanity by:

- Promoting student and Young Professional engagement
- Bridging academia and industry
- Encouraging leadership development
- Showcasing innovation and applied research
- Supporting professional certification pathways

The conference continues to serve as a flagship event within IEEE Region 6, reinforcing the strength of our community and the importance of investing in emerging leaders.



With the President of IEEE, Mary Ellen Randall

Radio Wireless Week Photos:

Photo Credits to: LylePhotos.com | January 18-21, 2026, LA/Hollywood, CA



IEEE Region 4 and Region 6 Joint Meeting 2026

Photo Credits to: IEEE-USA | January 30-February 1, 2026, Mesa, Arizona



Another successful Region 4 & Region 6 Joint Area Meeting was held in Mesa, Arizona, from January 30 to Feb 1. It was a great time to meet other volunteers from different regions and sections, sharing insights on what would make IEEE better as volunteers in promoting STEM and respective industries. On behalf of the section, we would like to thank Prof. Herder for representing the section. We look forward to the next year's Region 4 & Region 6 Joint Area Meeting.

Upcoming EVENTS:

- **IEEE Foothill Consultants Network Meeting** | **March 04, 2026**
- **March ExCom/OpCom Monthly Hybrid Meeting** | **March 10, 2026**
- **YP: Pi Day & Networking Mixer** | **March 14, 2026**



MARCH 14TH - LUNCH - BLAZE PIZZA