



DEPARTMENT OF  
MECHANICAL, AEROSPACE &  
BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

# *NASA University Leadership Initiative:* Ultra-Efficient Commercial Vehicles

**Jim Coder**

*Department of Mechanical, Aerospace & Biomedical Engineering*

**volAIR**  
revolutionary  
Aerodynamics  
Innovation and  
Research

# About Me



## Jim Coder

*Assistant Professor, University of Tennessee*

Research Areas: Computational aerodynamics,  
laminar-turbulent transition modeling

- PI for Ultra-Efficient Commercial Vehicles project (ARMD Thrust 3A)
- Senior Member of AIAA and member of Applied Aerodynamics Technical Committee

# Our Work: Ultra-Efficient Commercial Aircraft



Challenge: Pioneer technologies for leaps in U.S. aircraft efficiency and environmental performance

- *Less fuel/energy consumption*

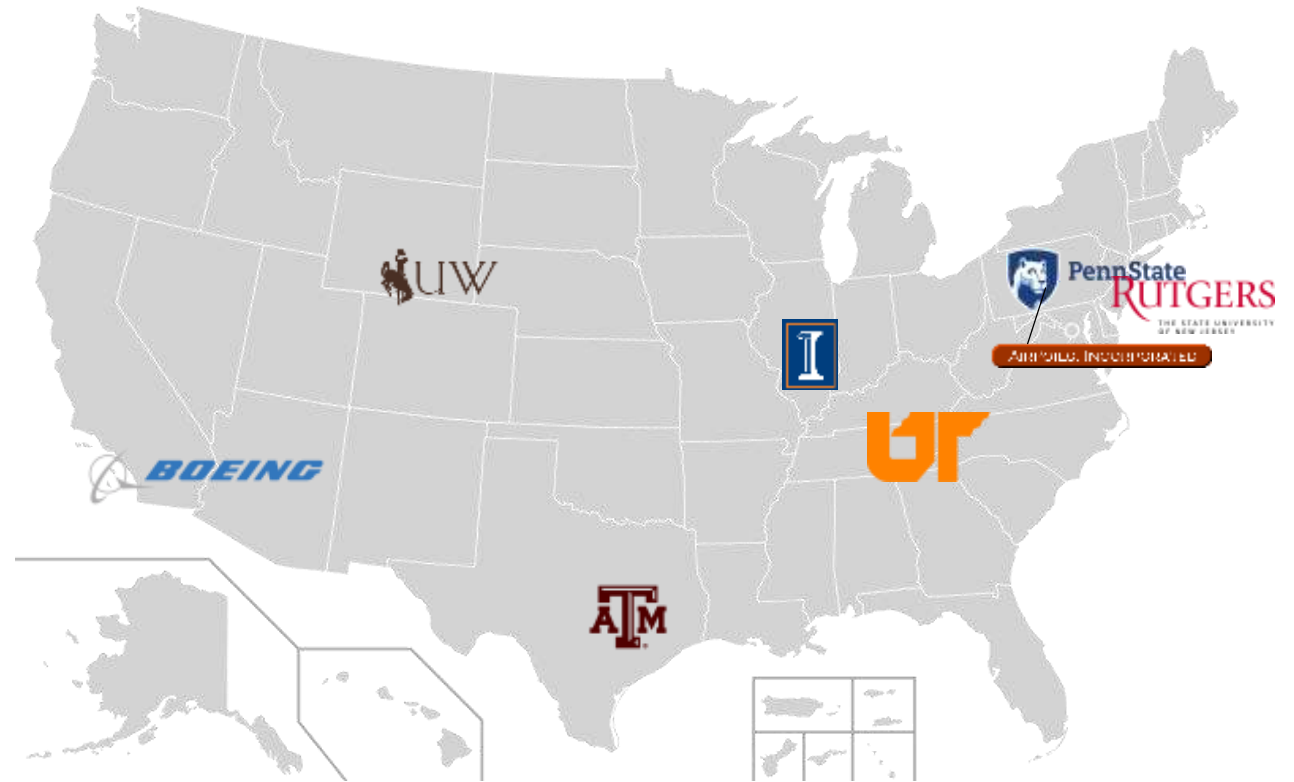
Solution: Revolutionary wing aerodynamics applied to advanced aircraft design concepts

Predicted Benefits:

- Economic competitiveness
- Lower fuel costs per flight

# Our Team: Value-Added Expertise

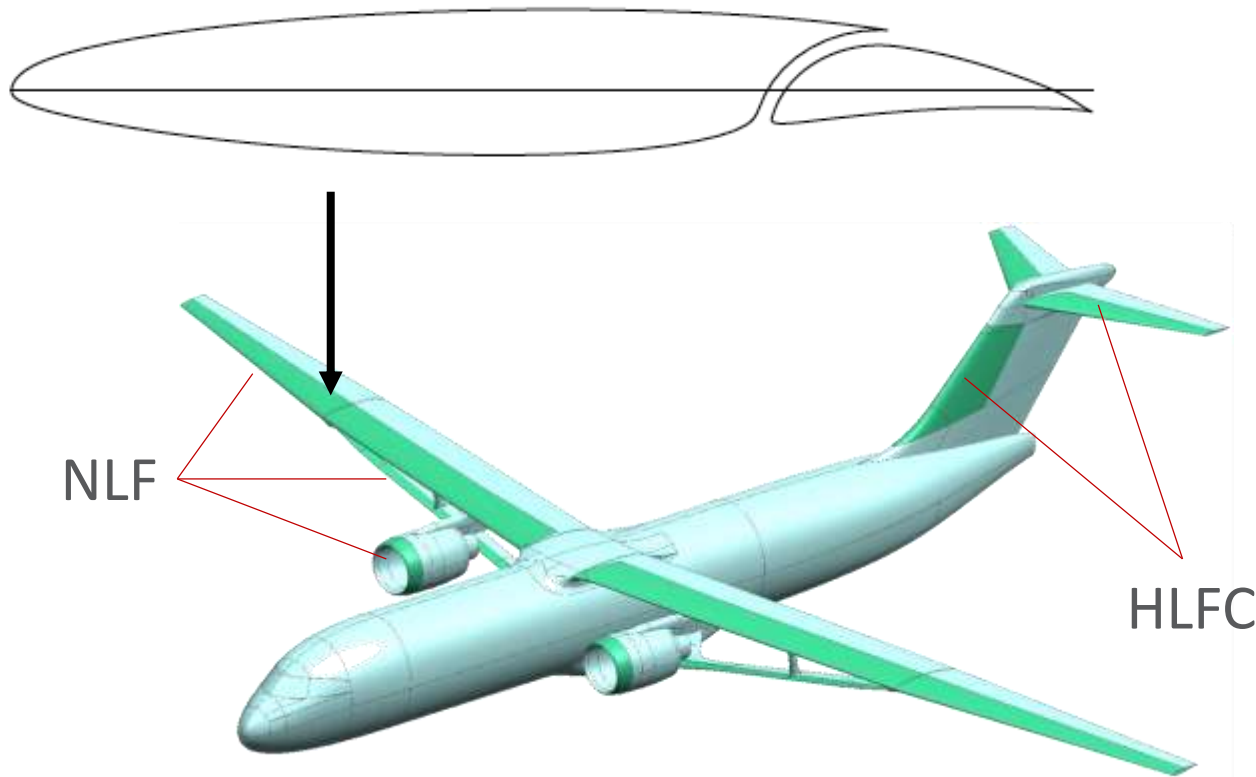
- Multidisciplinary, geographically diverse team covering all areas of aeronautics
- Five academic partners
- Two industrial partners
  - Airfoils, Incorporated  
Boeing Research & Technology in Huntington Beach, CA





# Core Technology: Slotted, NLF Airfoils

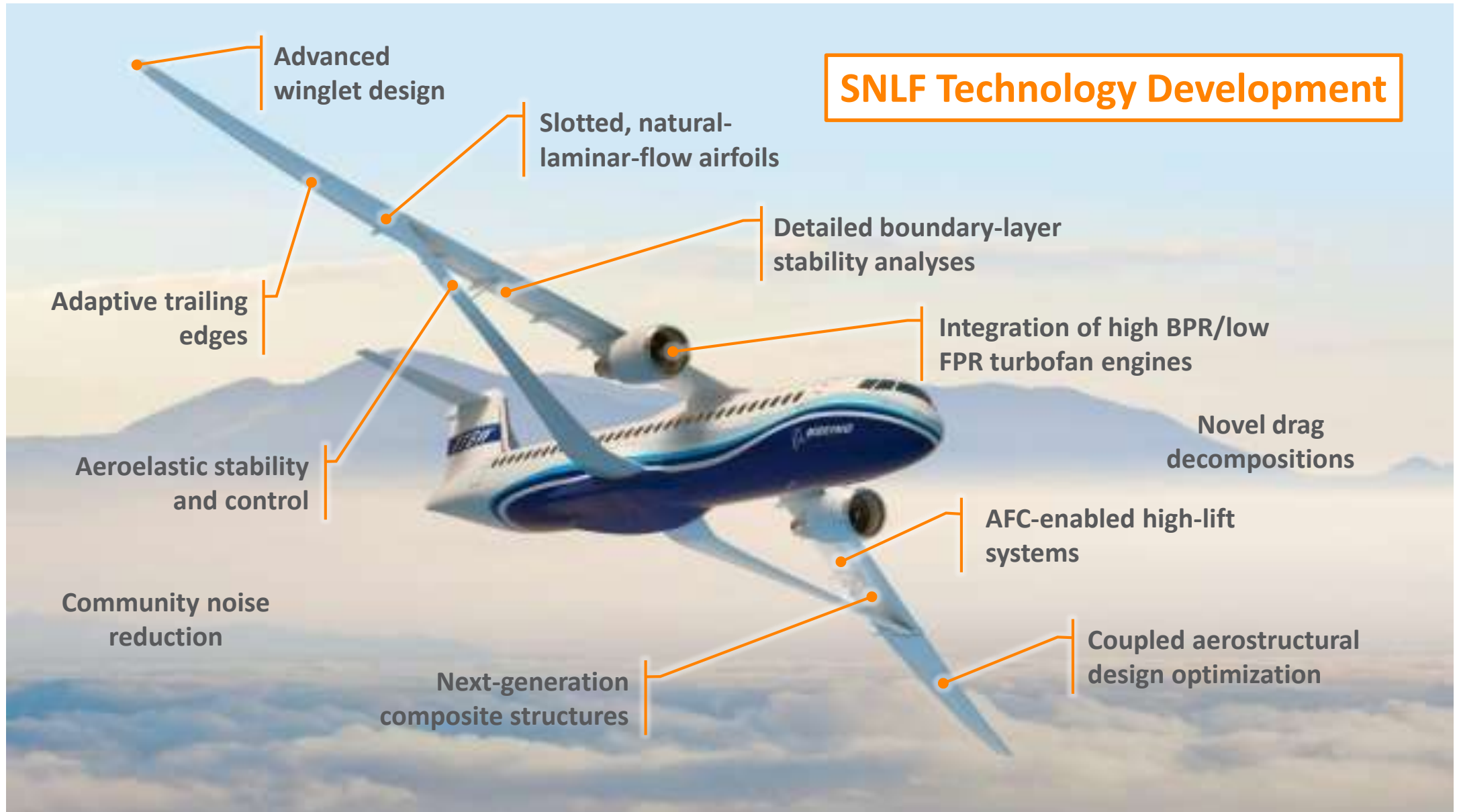
*S207, Slotted, Natural-Laminar-Flow Airfoil*



*Boeing Transonic Truss-Braced Wing ( $M=0.745$ )*

- Simultaneous decrease in cruise drag and increase in maximum lift coefficients
- Off-surface pressure recovery offers benefits for transonic wave drag
- **Changes the rules for wing design**

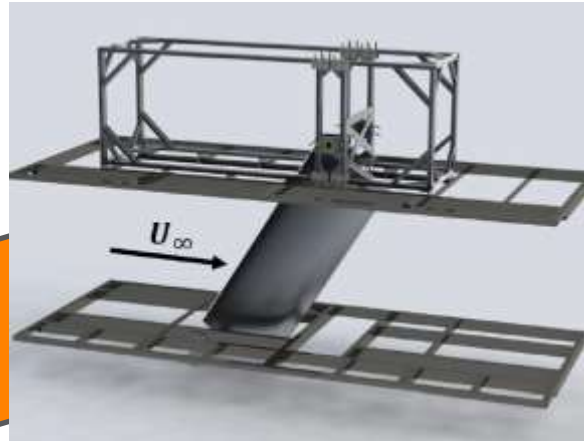
**Vehicle-level performance analyses by Boeing show 59% decrease in block fuel per seat compared to 2008 Baseline due to SNLF technology**



# Experimental Validation of Concept



**Preliminary Proof of Concept**



**Risk-Reduction Experiments  
(2019/2020)**



**Capstone Technology  
Demonstration  
(2022)**

# Our Vision: Impacting Aircraft *and* Students



## **Educational Impact**

***Covering the workforce development pipeline from elementary through graduate school***

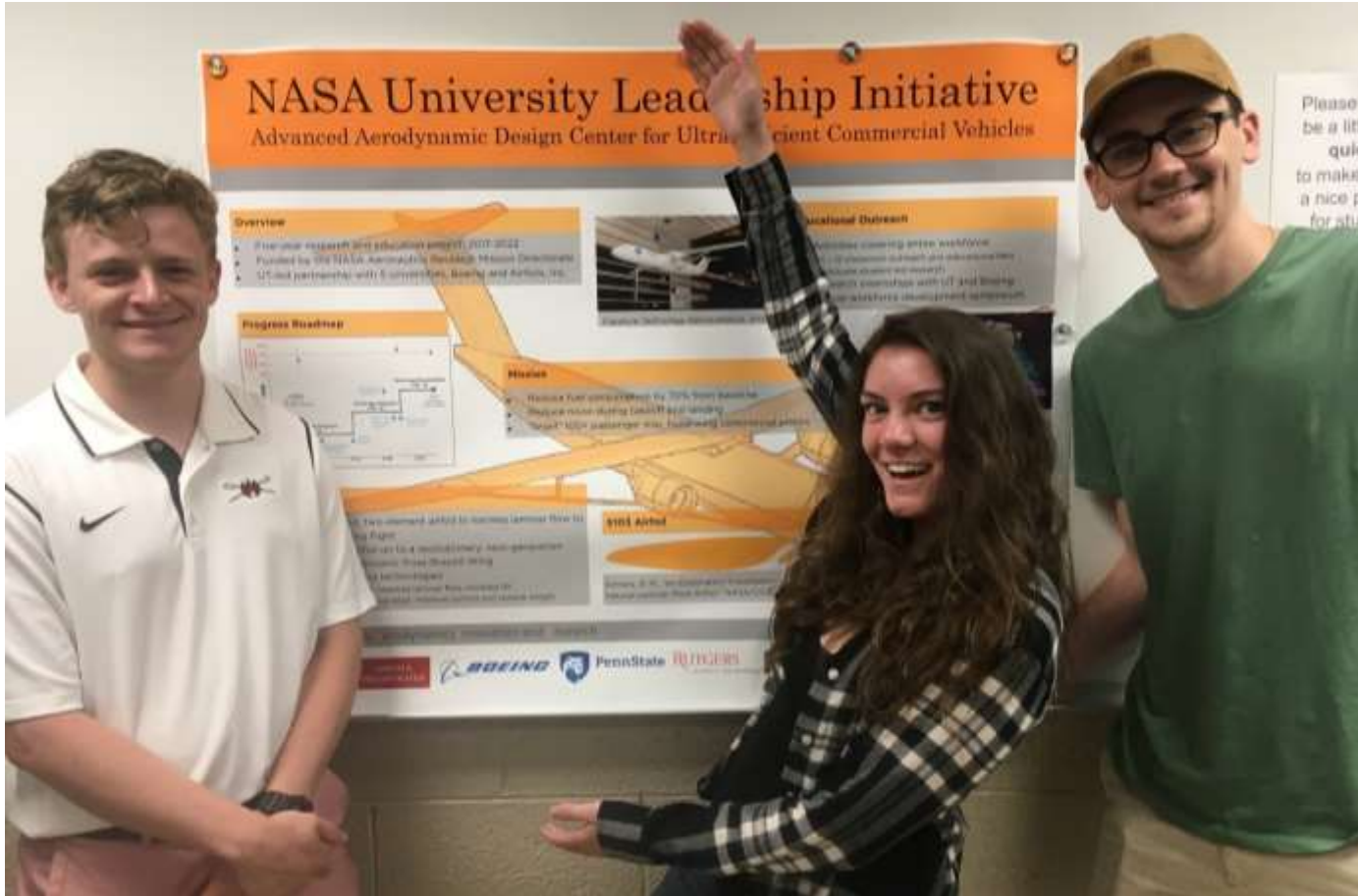
- Most research activities led by funded graduate students
  - 6 MS, 12 PhD students in 2018-19
- Undergraduate student research opportunities and experiential learning
  - 11 UG, including summer students in 2019
- Annual Boeing summer internship for *at least* one student from partner schools



# Educational Outreach



# Summer Undergraduate Research Experience





# Summer Internships at Boeing



# REVOLUTIONARY AERODYNAMICS