

Smarter Skies, More Resilient Systems: The Future of Commercial Aviation

National Academy of Engineering Regional Meeting
May 19-21, 2026 | Duke University

Kerry Buckley

Vice President, Center for Integrated Transportation
The MITRE Corporation

Kerry Buckley is Vice President for The MITRE Corporation's Center for Integrated Transportation and director of the Center for Advanced Aviation System Development (CAASD), the federally funded research and development center that MITRE operates for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

In this role, she leads MITRE's domestic and international civil aerospace and transportation strategic and business operations, with a focus on advancing safety, security, effectiveness, and efficiency of aerospace and transportation systems in the United States and around the globe. This work builds upon MITRE's decades-long legacy and partnership with the FAA and other partner federal agencies in the National Airspace System (NAS) including DoD, DHS, and NTSB.

Buckley was previously vice president, Air & Space Forces, for MITRE National Security. In that role, Buckley set strategy and priorities to ensure MITRE delivered technical capabilities and Air and Space Force mission objectives, including the Department's critical needs in space warfighting, air operations, nuclear enterprise modernization, cyber operations, and joint lethality in contested environments. She previously served as MITRE's vice president for Intelligence Programs, helping set strategy and priorities in support of the Intelligence Community.

Prior to her Intelligence role, Buckley directed MITRE's Information Technology Technical Center where she focused heavily on a systems science approach to social, behavioral, and linguistic issues of national importance. She applied her organizational planning and performance measurement knowledge to information sharing, enterprise IT, and collaboration initiatives for agencies across the U.S. government. Before joining MITRE, Buckley was the director of business process research at Veridian Corporation, a unit of General Dynamics. Buckley was an industrial/organizational psychologist for the Human Resources Research Organization and also served as a personnel psychologist at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management. Buckley is a 2022 Federal 100 award winner for her leadership in building a foundation for public and private cooperation in the space domain. In 2022, Buckley was also selected by Aviation Week Network for its 65th Annual Laureate Awards, honoring her leadership and work to keep space safe and viable. She led the MITRE team that created a space risk registry and management system. Buckley was inducted as an AIAA Associate Fellow in January 2025. Buckley earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and statistics from Boston University and a doctorate in industrial/organizational psychology from The George Washington University.



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING®