



ESD **Institute**

BRIDGES OF
INNOVATION



Getting to Know
Our Process

We welcome you
to a world of new
ideas and hope.

*—the board, directors and
staff of the ESD Institute*

[A Brief Statement of the History of The Engineering Society of Detroit and Its Institute]

Founded in 1895, The Engineering Society of Detroit (ESD) is a multi-disciplinary non-profit organization serving this and the next generation of engineers, scientists, and allied professionals and contributing to the betterment of our society at large. A listing of ESD's distinguished Board of Directors is contained at the end of this booklet. For further information about ESD, please visit its website at www.esd.org.

In 2008, the Board of Directors of The Engineering Society of Detroit unanimously approved the formation of the ESD Institute to facilitate ESD's mission. The charge of the Institute is to advance through excellence and collaboration the successful implementation of innovation by bridging creative and independent thought with concrete and meaningful action. To meet the opportunities and challenges of today and tomorrow, the ESD Institute strives with integrity to promote unity, focus, and choice through the process described in this booklet.

The Institute gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Rackham Engineering Foundation in carrying out its work. **For more information on the ESD Institute, visit www.ESDInstitute.net or call 248-353-0735, ext. 124.**



[Our Process]

This booklet is designed to give you a sense of our process and, importantly, our commitment to you.

As a matter of process, the Institute identifies subjects for consideration that we call *Initiatives*. Individuals are invited to serve as volunteers to examine an Initiative within the context of a workgroup referred to as a *Symposium*.

Usually attendees represent a diverse range of expertise and perspectives. Attendees serve as individuals and not as representatives of organizations or interest groups. Each is selected based upon his or her good judgment, experience, and expertise and is asked to disclose any potential sources of bias or conflict of interest that might prejudice the work of the Institute. To this end, we request that all attendees identify any professional, consulting, financial, or other connections or relationships that might adversely reflect on the integrity of the Institute and those engaged in this process.



[Our Symposium]

A Symposium usually occurs over a two-day period and may be continued for further deliberation if warranted by the Initiative. An internal Institute committee made up of the Directors and assigned staff of the Institute, a select group of ESD Board members, and occasional representatives of outside organizations frames the issues through a summary of the Initiative, facilitates the work of the Symposium, and acts as a reporter for the Symposium.

A Symposium usually begins in closed session in which each attendee provides an introductory statement of his or her background and experience. Our expectation is that attendees will learn from each other and grow during the process. Subgroups are sometimes formed with internal committee members divided into issue-specific groups to promote creativity and the frank and candid exchange of ideas to further the work of the Symposium. The goal is to achieve a level of trust and candor that results in a movement from conflicting or disparate views to unity, focus, and choices that can be implemented for the betterment of society. For this reason, the work of a Symposium is confidential and may not be disclosed without the prior written approval of the Institute.



[Our Published Report]

Often the work product of a Symposium takes the form of a published report that represents a novel synthesis of ideas from those participating in the Symposium. A report of the findings or recommendations of the Symposium may then be shared with the public in order to advance an understanding of potential solutions to problems relating to an initiative. The Institute's goal is to provide a meaningful and effective contribution geared to the application of new ideas that can then be considered and implemented by policymakers.

While attendees should strive for consensus regarding a report, it is not a requirement nor should it be at the cost of weakening the analysis or conclusions reached during the Symposium. Accordingly, at times it may then be more valuable to explain the rationale behind areas of disagreement than to issue unanimous conclusions that are so limited they fail to contribute to a better understanding of the issues presented by an initiative. At the conclusion of a Symposium, the names and affiliations of all participants are released upon publication of any report of the Symposium.

[Our Commitment]

It is important to note that the role of the ESD Institute is to maintain the independence, objectivity, and integrity of the process and not to advance a specific outcome or result. Any report is the collective work product of those attending the Symposium. Your contribution may be used by us without restriction or obligation. Individual submissions or contributions are generally not recognized. The Institute reserves the right to use and publish or not any deliberate idea, process, contribution, or report as determined by its Board of Directors.



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— THE —
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