



Dan Rhoades

President | CEO



Daniel Rhoades is the President and CEO of the Museum of Aviation Foundation, where he leads efforts to preserve the legacy of aviation while using the museum as a platform for education, innovation, and workforce development. His leadership fosters strategic partnerships that connect the past, present, and future of aerospace and defense.

In this role, Dan oversees the Foundation’s initiatives, which support one of the largest aviation museums in the U.S. The Museum houses over 85 aircraft and more than 4,500 artifacts, attracting 265,000 visitors annually. Through a team of 30 employees and over 100 volunteers, he works closely with government, military, and industry partners to provide an engaging and educational visitor experience.

Before joining the Museum of Aviation Foundation, Dan served as Chief of Strategic Basing and Total Force for the U.S. Air Force, where he played a key role in shaping operational strategies and workforce policies. His extensive experience across all three military branches—as a servicemember, federal civilian, and contractor—has provided him with a deep understanding of national security, logistics, and modernization efforts.

Following his military service, Dan was instrumental in regional and national defense initiatives as Chief of Operations for the 21st Century Partnership. In this role, he collaborated with local, state, and federal officials to strengthen Robins Air Force Base and advance the Middle Georgia Innovation Corridor. His leadership in fostering STEM education, workforce development, and innovation ecosystems has positioned the region as a hub for technological and industrial transformation.

A dedicated advocate for community engagement in defense and technology, Dan actively participates in organizations such as the Association of Defense Communities (ADC), the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA), and regional chambers of commerce. He has also contributed to major initiatives like Georgia Artificial Intelligence in Manufacturing (Georgia AIM), a statewide program funded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration to drive AI innovation in manufacturing.

Through his leadership at the Museum of Aviation, Dan is committed to inspiring future generations, strengthening the museum’s connection to the defense landscape, and harnessing historical ingenuity to drive future advancements. His ability to unite stakeholders from military, industry, and education makes him a key leader in shaping the future of aerospace, defense, and STEM workforce development.

Dan lives in Perry, Georgia, with his wife Michelle and daughter Ivy, where he is actively engaged in the local community and dedicated to fostering the next generation of innovators and leaders.