Welcome to the 2023 AOPA Foundation High School Aviation STEM Symposium, presented by Boeing. This year, we’ll see aviation careers in action as we gather right in the heart of one of the busiest airports in the world.

This is a moment of unlimited opportunity in aviation and aerospace—a time of unprecedented demand in every type of aviation profession and a time when new types of jobs are emerging in the drone, space, and urban air mobility sectors. Simply put, there’s never been a better time to prepare young people for these careers.

If you’ve attended an AOPA Foundation Symposium in the past, you know there’s no better place to meet industry experts, network with experienced aviation educators, discover resources for your classroom, and find the tools you need to guide your students to great opportunities.

If you’re new to this event, you’re in for a treat. Over the next few days, you’ll have the chance to meet and connect with leaders in industry and in aviation STEM education who can—and want to—help you with every aspect of creating, growing, supporting, and even funding a program of your own.

Whether this is your first Symposium or your fifth, I hope you’ll bring your energy, enthusiasm, and curiosity to the table—because that’s what makes these gatherings so special. And this year’s event promises to be bigger and better than ever.

In our general sessions, you’ll hear from leading innovators in the aviation and space industries, educators using aviation STEM to change the lives of students who might otherwise be left behind, and aviators who turned their passion into careers that are making the world a better place.

With more than 20 breakout sessions spread over three days, you’ll find answers to your questions about aviation STEM, free resources you can put to work immediately, and the expertise to help you no matter where you are in your journey. The real challenge will be choosing which sessions to attend!

Throughout the event, you’ll have plenty of opportunities to get hands-on with simulators, drones, and classroom activities. And don’t forget the many entertainment options here in Orlando. Whether you’re looking for theme park thrills or fantastic restaurants, you’ll find them within easy reach.

Thank you for being here and for all you’re doing to help your students discover the incredible opportunities that await them in aviation and aerospace.

Blue skies,

Mark R. Baker
President & CEO, AOPA, AOPA Foundation
PRESENTING SPONSOR

With more than a century of experience, Boeing’s knowledge in bringing innovative service solutions to business aviation, general aviation, commercial, defense and space customers has united to form Boeing Global Services, including its Jeppesen and ForeFlight brands. With a focus on innovative services in engineering, digital solutions and analytics as well as supply chain logistics and training support, Boeing will deliver agile, cost-competitive solutions, regardless of the original equipment manufacturer, so customers can reduce costs, drive efficiency and optimize operations. We’re here, around the clock, around the world, and always ready. boeing.com

GENERAL SPONSORS

California Aeronautical University (CAU) is training the next generation of aviation professionals through career-focused programs in aviation, aviation business, and aircraft maintenance. CAU is primed to deliver well-prepared candidates to support the national commercial fleet. Courses are delivered in a year-round, fast-paced schedule that provides students with a fast-track pathway to aviation careers. Eligible students can also enjoy the university advantage CAU provides and qualify for crucial career time-saving benefits. calaero.edu

Redbird Flight Simulations was established in 2006 to make aviation more accessible to all by using modern technology and engineering. Redbird has delivered high-quality simulators, software, and aviation education content to K-12 schools, colleges, universities, and flight schools around the world. Dedicated to supporting K-12 STEM programs, Redbird continues to create products for its many primary and secondary education customers. With more than 3,000 devices in service worldwide, Redbird is the fastest-growing, most innovative flight training solutions provider. redbirdflight.com

MILITARY SPONSOR

The mission of the United States Air Force is to fly, fight, and win—airpower anytime, anywhere. We embrace the core values of integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do as guiding principles. The Air Force offers opportunities for young Americans to get an education, use their talents, achieve their goals, serve their country, and experience a high quality of life. Aim High! airforce.com
EXHIBIT HALL SPONSOR

Delta

No one better connects the world than Delta Air Lines, and we want to help your students take the first step in their aviation career. With an industry-leading pilot pathway and TechOps pipeline program, students have the opportunity to pursue their passion in STEM with either a career as a pilot or as an A&P. Delta’s powerful consumer brand, combined with Delta’s unmatched competitive advantages—culture, operational reliability, global network, customer loyalty and an investment-grade balance sheet—create opportunities for long-term value creation. deltatechu.com; delta.com/us/en/careers/pilots/propel

SELFIE BOOTH & SUNDAY RECEPTION SPONSOR

The Embraer Foundation, established in 2017 as a 501(c)(3) organization, is committed to making strategic social investments that positively impact the communities in which Embraer’s employees live and work. Our commitment to the community serves as the cornerstone of the Foundation’s three pillars: social investment, employee engagement through volunteerism, and inspiring aviation amongst youth. Through transformative alignment in each pillar, Embraer and its employees make a difference nationwide by forming meaningful partnerships that foster innovation in education, sustainability, aviation, and DEI. embraerfoundation.org

WIFI SPONSOR

Liberty Partners of Tallahassee, LLC is a Florida-certified Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) comprised of dedicated professionals with diverse experiences, skills, and relationships that bolster our clients and their ability to succeed. Each member of the firm is well respected with strong, long-term working relationships within state and local government, the business community, and the advocacy community as a whole. Most significantly, Liberty Partners has been branded one of the firms best suited to represent emerging technologies. libertypartnersfl.com
LANYARD SPONSOR

LIFT Academy is owned and operated by Republic Airways. A premiere flight training academy, LIFT was founded in 2018 to fulfill the demand for airline-ready pilots, making an airline career more accessible and attainable with a defined pathway to a job as a Republic pilot. Our 12-month program’s flight training curriculum is modeled after Republic SOPs, checklists, and flows. When you take off with LIFT Academy, you land at Republic Airways!
flywithlift.com

AOPA FOUNDATION SPONSORS

Textron is a $12.4 billion, multi-industry company employing 33,000 talented makers, thinkers, creators, and doers worldwide. We make things that fly, hover, zoom, and launch. Things that move people. Protect soldiers. Power industries. We serve customers in industries spanning aerospace and defense, specialized vehicles, turf care, and fuel systems. Visit our website to learn more about our six business segments. textron.com

Williams International is the world leader in the development, manufacture, and support of gas turbine engines. The privately owned company is headquartered in Pontiac, Michigan, and its Ogden, Utah, facility is the world’s most modern, efficient gas turbine design-to-production facility. Founded in 1955, Williams has expanded its development, test, production, and product support to create a versatile organization with the capacity to meet growth objectives in aviation, industrial, and military markets. williams-int.com

A CAREER IN THE SKIES

When you take off with LIFT Academy, you land at Republic Airways! As a premier flight training program, LIFT offers up to $99k to make your path to Republic affordable, accessible and attainable.
Start your aviation career today!

LEARN MORE
**10:00 A.M. – 2:45 P.M.**

JetBlue University Tours  
**LOCATION: REGISTRATION DESK** (Prior Registration Required)

Immerse yourself in JetBlue’s state-of-the-art facilities and gain valuable flight and inflight training insights. You’ll enjoy exciting activities and a guided tour of The Lodge, a unique lodging and learning experience created to foster and showcase JetBlue’s distinctive brand and company culture.

**1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

Symposium Registration Open

**2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

Delta Air Lines Exhibit Hall Open

**4:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.**  |  **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

☐ **Introducing the AOPA Foundation High School Aviation STEM Curriculum**  
**LOCATION: TULLAMARINE**  
Elizabeth Tennyson, AOPA Foundation/YCF  
Michael Hangartner, AOPA Foundation High School Initiative

Transform your classroom with the AOPA Foundation’s High School Aviation STEM Curriculum. Learn about the breadth, rigor, and fun of the FREE curriculum in this high-level overview. Discover the engaging activities, comprehensive teaching materials, and extensive teacher support available to curriculum users, and learn how to get started.

☐ **Deep Dive: Work Through an AOPA Foundation High School Aviation STEM Curriculum Lesson**  
**LOCATION: BEN GURION**  
Chris Moser, AOPA Foundation Flight Training Initiative

You’ve seen it on paper, but what does a high school aviation lesson look like in practice? Find out by observing an entire lesson from start to finish. We’ll highlight the balance of rigor and fun in a typical class session and offer tips for pacing, management, and adapting to the realities of your classroom and students.

**5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.**

Embraer Foundation Networking Hour  
**LOCATION: LOBBY EAST**
7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.
Symposium Registration Open

7:30 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.
Breakfast
LOCATION: LOBBY EAST AND NORTH LOBBY
Delta Air Lines Exhibit Hall Open

9:00 A.M. – 10:45 A.M. | OPENING GENERAL SESSION
LOCATION: REGENCY BALLROOM

Special Guest:
Jeff Fuqua, Past Chairman, Greater Orlando Aviation Authority
It takes both vision and action to create meaningful change. Discover how those elements came together as the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority transformed Orlando International Airport’s role in the region’s aerospace ecosystem and what that transformation means for the workforce of tomorrow.

Keynote Speaker:
Capt. Barrington Irving, Author, Pilot, Entrepreneur, and Founder of The Flying Classroom
How does a youth from Kingston, Jamaica become the first and youngest Black man to fly around the world solo, launching the trip with just $30 in his pocket? Learn how Barrington Irving has set records and gone on to leverage his skills and experiences to found The Flying Classroom—a nonprofit dedicated to empowering students to reach for the skies.

10:45 A.M. – 11:15 A.M.
Networking Break
Capt. Irving Autograph Session
LOCATION: DELTA AIR LINES EXHIBIT HALL, FLYING CLASSROOM EXHIBIT BOOTH

10:45 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.
Delta Air Lines Exhibit Hall Open

1:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
Orlando International Airport Tour
LOCATION: REGISTRATION DESK (Prior Registration Required)
Discover the intricacies of aviation with a behind-the-scenes airport tour! Join us for an immersive journey into the world of travel and innovation, gaining insights into the inner workings and captivating stories that shape this bustling hub.
Introducing the AOPA Foundation High School Aviation STEM Curriculum

LOCATION: TULLAMARINE

Katie Pribyl, AOPA Foundation
Michael Hangartner, AOPA Foundation High School Initiative

Transform your classroom with the AOPA Foundation’s High School Aviation STEM Curriculum. Learn about the breadth, rigor, and fun of the FREE curriculum in this high-level overview. Discover the engaging activities, comprehensive teaching materials, and extensive teacher support available to curriculum users, and learn how to get started.

Drones in the Classroom

LOCATION: BEN GURION

Jenny Peters, Pryor High School, OK

Flying drones in class is a lot of fun, but these machines are more tools than toys. Learn strategies for getting the most from your drones with a focus on drone selection and maintenance, accessories worth having, classroom and materials management, and safety.

Beyond High School

LOCATION: MIRABEL

Glenn Ponas, AOPA Foundation High School Initiative
Carolina Anderson, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
David Moorefield, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

The next steps after high school can be daunting. But with the right support and preparation, they don’t have to be. Learn what aviation programs and colleges are looking for and how to help your students prepare. Explore airline partnerships with universities, pilot requirements, dual enrollment opportunities, and industry expectations.

FAA’s STEM AVSED Program

LOCATION: GATWICK

Christine Sharp, Federal Aviation Administration
Jim Brough, Federal Aviation Administration

The FAA has a wealth of education resources that can help build and support your aviation program. From its annual Airport Design Challenge to classroom activities for grades K-12, the FAA’s STEM AVSED (Aviation and Space Education) Program has free resources to help you.

LUNCH
1:45 P.M. – 2:45 P.M. | BREAKOUT SESSIONS

☐ Deep Dive: Work Through an AOPA Foundation High School Aviation STEM Curriculum Lesson
LOCATION: TULLAMARINE
Chris Moser, AOPA Foundation Flight Training Initiative
You’ve seen it on paper, but what does a high school aviation lesson look like in practice? Find out by observing an entire lesson from start to finish. We’ll highlight the balance of rigor and fun in a typical class session and offer tips for pacing, management, and adapting to the realities of your classroom and students.

☐ Something for Everyone: Free and Low-Cost Resources to Help Your Program Soar
LOCATION: BEN GURION
Elizabeth Tennyson, AOPA Foundation/You Can Fly
Kyle Jaracz, Academy of Model Aeronautics
April Lanotte, National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Susan Mallet, Civil Air Patrol
Paul Maloy, Experimental Aircraft Association
Titus Sanders, Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals
Chris Sharp, Federal Aviation Administration
Round out your aviation program with free and low-cost materials, as well as flight opportunities from prestigious aerospace organizations. Discover the wealth of content available to you and your students.

☐ Simulators in the Classroom
LOCATION: MIRABEL
Glenn Ponas, AOPA Foundation High School Initiative
Jeff Ryan, Gleim Aviation
Greg Roark, Redbird Flight Simulations
Flight simulators are a great way to enhance your aviation curriculum and motivate your students, but it can be hard to know where to start. Learn about some of the most popular flight simulators on the market today and how you can put them to work to bring aviation concepts to life.

☐ Join the (Aviation) Club!
LOCATION: GATWICK
Jamie Beckett, AOPA Foundation Liaison
Creating a high school aviation club is not only feasible but can also be a great way to drive student engagement and achievement. The size and purpose of aviation clubs can be as diverse as your student population—with the sky truly being the limit! We will provide examples of different types of aviation clubs and steps you can take to get your club off the ground.
2:45 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
Networking Break

3:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M. | MONDAY AFTERNOON GENERAL SESSION
LOCATION: REGENCY BALLROOM

Special Guest:
Paula Kedy, Aviation and Aerospace Coordinator, Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission

With the right teacher, the right program, and the right opportunity, students who might otherwise be left behind can go on to do great things. Paula Kedy has helped hundreds of students in dozens of schools do just that. Hear the inspiring story of her path from teacher to becoming a driving force in Oklahoma’s K-12 aviation education initiative and learn how you can create similar opportunities in your own community.

Keynote Speaker:
Christopher “Chuie” Huie, Astronaut, Virgin Galactic, and Co-Founder, Black Leaders in Aerospace Scholarship and Training

What does it take to reach the stars? Christopher “Chuie” Huie will discuss becoming the 19th Black astronaut in history and his out-of-this-world experience as a mission specialist on the recent Virgin Galactic Unity 25 Mission. And he’ll share how he’s using his own success to help students from underrepresented populations.

4:30 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.
Reception in the Delta Air Lines Exhibit Hall
7:30 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
Symposium Registration Open

7:30 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.
Breakfast
LOBBY EAST AND NORTH LOBBY

7:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M
Delta Air Lines Exhibit Hall Open

9:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M. | BREAKOUT SESSIONS

☐ Hands-On Learning: Curriculum Activities Lab
LOCATION: TULLAMARINE
Glenn Ponas, AOPA Foundation High School Initiative
Chris Moser, AOPA Foundation Flight Training Initiative
Doug Adomatis, Greenville Technical Charter High School
George Anderson, Sebastian River High School
Jayson Crowley, Enid High School
Joe Daversa, Williamsport High School
Jonas De Leon, Gregorio Luperon High School
Chris Eckler, Ada High School
Gary Knowles, Mustang High School
Sam Madewell, Putnam City School
Cindy Martin, University Christian School
Brian McLain, Ketchum High School
Gerald Steffen, West Creek High School
Stefanie Tweedy, Ada Junior High School

Engaging activities and problem-based learning are at the core of the AOPA Foundation High School Aviation STEM Curriculum. Try a selection of the fun student activities found in our lessons with experienced teachers who can share their tips for classroom success.

☐ You Can Be a Pilot (And So Can Your Students)
LOCATION: BEN GURION
Michael Hangartner, AOPA Foundation High School Initiative
Jamie Beckett, AOPA Foundation Liaison

Becoming a pilot is within reach, and we can help. Join our pilot presenters to learn what it takes to become a pilot and how scholarships just for you and your students can make it more affordable. We’ll look at each phase of the flight training process, debunk many of the myths about learning to fly, and share some of the exciting experiences that await new aviators.
Aviation Maintenance in High School and Beyond
LOCATION: MIRABEL
Crystal Maguire, Aviation Technician Education Council
Kelly Filgo, Choose Aerospace
America needs as many new aviation maintenance technicians as new pilots. Learn how you can add a maintenance pathway to your high school aviation program and discover career and training opportunities for graduates.

Opportunity Calling: An Inside Look at the Aviation Job Market
LOCATION: GATWICK
Abbey Hutter, JS Firm
Matthew Johnston, California Aeronautical University
There’s more to aviation careers than flying. From aeronautical engineers to air traffic controllers and airport managers to meteorologists, there are many ways to make a living in the world of aerospace. Learn from experts about today’s job market, including the types of jobs available, pay rates, and employer expectations.

10:00 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.
Networking Break

10:15 A.M.– 11:15 A.M. | BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Volunteers Needed: Public Benefit Flying Opportunities
LOCATION: TULLAMARINE
Carley Walker, STEM Flights
Are you looking to engage your students with real world aviation experience and teach them how pilots use aviation to give back? Public Benefit Flying organizations assist the public by coordinating volunteer pilots with individuals and animals needing assistance. This session will give you examples of groups in your community where students can intern, volunteer, or provide support. Public benefit flying is also an opportunity to examine aviation careers that aren’t necessarily flying but do require employees to "speak aviation."

Remote Possibilities: Emerging Trends in Drone Careers
LOCATION: BEN GURION
Mike Uleski, Flight Safety International
Earning a remote pilot certificate allows those as young as 16 to be paid to fly drones. But what options are available to students once they have passed the test? Learn about the diverse and rapidly evolving jobs available now and get tips for helping your students launch a successful drone career.
Your Ticket to the Airlines
LOCATION: MIRABEL
Katie Pribyl, AOPA Foundation
Joey Colleran, Boeing Global Services
Wendy Hales Mora, Southwest Airlines
Nancy Hocking, JetBlue
Monica Newman McCluney, Embraer Foundation
Nina Van De Steeg, Delta Air Lines
Regional and major airlines are welcoming high school graduates into their pilot training programs like never before. Learn about some of the post-high school pathways designed to lead your students to the flight deck of an airliner, sometimes even without a college degree.

Preflight Planning: How to Start a New High School Aviation Program
LOCATION: GATWICK
Glenn Ponas, AOPA Foundation High School Initiative
You want to start an aviation program that prepares students for STEM career success, but how do you turn that idea into reality? Staff members from the AOPA Foundation have helped hundreds of programs get off the ground. We’ll answer your questions and share strategies for pitching, planning, and launching high school aviation programs.

11:15 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.
Networking Break

11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M. | BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Get Connected to Get the Most from Your Aviation Program
LOCATION: TULLAMARINE
Mike Gottfried, Roxbury High School, NJ
Matthew Mawn, Roxbury High School, NJ
David Sarkisian, New Jersey Aviation Education Council
Learn how to extend the reach of your new or established aviation program by building collaborative partnerships with local aviation community members and organizations. Get tips for finding and connecting with aviation businesses, airports, pilot groups, and others who can support your efforts and create opportunities for your students.
Simulators in the Classroom
LOCATION: BEN GURION
Glenn Ponas, AOPA Foundation High School Initiative
Ray Bedard, True Course Simulations
John DiMattei, Simbird by Montauk Systems
Kenneth McElheran, Virtual Fly North America
Flight simulators are a great way to enhance your aviation curriculum and motivate your students, but it can be hard to know where to start. Learn about some of the most popular flight simulators on the market today and how you can put them to work to bring aviation concepts to life.

Aviators Wanted: The United States Air Force
LOCATION: MIRABEL
Capt. Jonathan Rothe, United States Air Force
Where can the United States Air Force take your students? In this session, Air Force representatives will discuss how the Air Force can help students discover their strengths, learn new skills, earn a degree, and take their careers to new heights.

Fund Your Aviation Program: How to Write a Winning Perkins Grant
LOCATION: GATWICK
Eric Crump, Aerospace Center for Excellence
Orathai Northern, Polk State College
Need money to start or expand your school’s aviation program? The Perkins Act provides the primary federal funding source for high school CTE programs, and more than $1.3 billion is available each year. Find out how to tap into this money to make your aviation program soar!

12:30 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.
LUNCH

2:00 – 3:30 P.M. | CLOSING GENERAL SESSION
LOCATION: REGENCY BALLROOM
Keynote Speaker:
Meagan Flannigan, Retired Navy Commander and F-14D and F/A-18 Pilot, Amazon
Meagan Flannigan will recount her journey from being a ten-year-old inspired by the movie Top Gun to joining the then-male-dominated world of U.S. Navy fighter pilots. She will share her thoughts on inspiring, motivating, and training young people to become resilient and unyielding in their desire to be successful in the face of what can seem like overwhelming odds.

2024 Symposium Announcement
GENERAL SESSION SPEAKERS

OPENING GENERAL SESSION:
Monday, November 13, 2023
9:00 a.m. — 10:45 a.m.

Welcome
Mark Baker
President and CEO AOPA, AOPA Foundation
Mark Baker is an accomplished business leader and longtime pilot and aircraft owner who flies everything from a Super Cub on floats to jets. He has served as chief operating officer at Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, chief executive officer of outdoor outfitter Gander Mountain Company, and chief merchandising officer for The Home Depot. Now, he guides the world’s largest civil aviation organization as it celebrates 84 years of protecting the freedom to fly.

Special Guest
Jeffrey B. Fuqua, Ph.D.
Past Chairman, Greater Orlando Aviation Authority
As a pilot, business leader, and multiple-term chairman of the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority, Dr. Jeffrey Fuqua understands the true value of great airports. He played a key role in an $828 million expansion that transformed Orlando International Airport into the transportation hub and economic driver it is today.

Keynote Speaker
Barrington Irving
The Flying Classroom, STEM+ Ambassador, National Geographic Emerging Explorer, Author, Pilot, and Entrepreneur
Born in Kingston, Jamaica, and magna cum laude graduate of Florida Memorial University, Capt. Barrington Irving earned a Guinness World Record as the youngest person to solo around the world. In 2014, Irving established the Flying Classroom, a K-8 STEM+ digital curriculum challenging students to innovate solutions to problems he investigates.
MONDAY AFTERNOON GENERAL SESSION:
Monday, November 13, 2023
3:00 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.

Special Guest
Paula Kedy
Aviation and Aerospace Coordinator,
Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission

When Paula Kedy decided to bring aviation education to her Ada, Oklahoma community, she wanted to create new opportunities for her students, but she didn’t realize just how transformative those opportunities would be. In just a few years, she’s helped bring aviation curriculum to dozens of schools statewide and seen hundreds of students climb to new heights of academic, personal, and professional achievement.

Keynote Speaker
Christopher “Chuie” Huie
Sr. Manager of Business Insights, Virgin Galactic

Christopher Huie is an aerospace engineer and the 19th Black astronaut, serving as mission specialist on Virgin Galactic’s Unity 25. Huie’s dedication to mentoring and inspiring students is evident through his involvement in Virgin Galactic’s outreach initiative and his co-founder role in Black Leaders in Aerospace Scholarship and Training (BLAST).

CLOSING GENERAL SESSION:
Tuesday, November 14, 2023
2:00 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.

Keynote Speaker
Jenny “Juno” Moore
F-35 Enterprise Training and Operations Support, Lockheed Martin

Jenny “Juno” Moore is an F-35 training and operations expert, flight instructor, and fighter pilot. She holds a BS in aerospace engineering from Georgia Tech and a master’s in aeronautical science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Moore began her U.S. Navy career as a nuclear physics instructor before transitioning to fly F/A-18 Super Hornets. She conducted numerous carrier landings, engaged in combat missions, and trained new F/A-18 pilots for combat deployments. She later joined Lockheed Martin as an F-35 contract instructor pilot and went on to lead the Marine Corps F-35B and F-35C training program.
**Carolina Anderson, Ph.D.**  
*Associate Professor of Aeronautical Science, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University*

Dr. Carolina Anderson is an associate professor of aeronautical science in the College of Aviation at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU). She earned a Ph.D. in aviation from ERAU in 2013, becoming the first woman to hold that degree. She also holds an MBA from ERAU and a B.S. in mechanical engineering from Los Andes University in Bogota, Colombia. In addition, Anderson holds an airline transport pilot certificate and has more than 4,500 hours of flight time and 3,000 hours of flight instruction given.

**Jamie Beckett**  
*High School Aero Club Liaison, AOPA Foundation*

Jamie Beckett serves as the High School Aero Club Liaison for the AOPA Foundation. He works with individuals and groups throughout the United States to guide them to success as they form and manage aeronautical organizations designed to work specifically with young people. Beckett has earned commercial land and sea ratings for airplanes, as well as instrument and multi-engine instructor ratings. An A&P mechanic with a penchant for the classics and a frequent contributor to a wide variety of aviation publications, Beckett’s passion for general aviation is truly infectious.

**James Brough**  
*National Aviation and Space Education (AVSED) Program Lead, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)*

James Brough was an educator for 21 years and joined the FAA in 2008 as the National Aviation and Space Education Program lead. Brough provides national leadership to prepare students to enter the aerospace industry workforce. He is also a private pilot and aircraft owner, which brings a unique perspective to his position with the National STEM AVSED Program. He has received recognition and numerous awards for his aerospace education initiatives. In 2001, Brough was inducted into the New Hampshire Teacher’s Hall of Fame.

**Eric Crump**  
*Executive Director, Aerospace Center for Excellence*

Eric Crump is the executive director of the Aerospace Center for Excellence in Lakeland, Florida. Crump previously served as aerospace program director for the Polk State College aerospace program, which he helped start in 2012. His formal education and training led him into professional aviation. He previously worked as a corporate pilot, flight training program curriculum developer, technical publications content editor, and chief instructor for various training organizations. Today, Crump focuses on building and developing education and career pathways for young people into the aviation/aerospace industry.
SPEAKER BIOS

Kelly Filgo

*Director of Operations, Choose Aerospace*

As an education consultant, Kelly Filgo serves on a Texas Education Association Essential Knowledge and Skills committee, making recommendations for Texas high school aviation maintenance curricula. He holds an MA in Higher Education Administration, was an aviation maintenance faculty member at Texas State Technical College, and an adjunct for the Texas A&M University Central Texas Campus aviation program. Filgo spent five years as a member of the board of directors for ATEC before joining Choose Aerospace as director of operations.

Mike Gottfried, Ed.D.

*Aviation Teacher, Roxbury High School*

Dr. Mike Gottfried is an Earth science, physics, and aviation teacher at Roxbury High School in Succasunna, New Jersey. Having just completed his Ed.D. in educational leadership, he is pursuing his private pilot certificate. Gottfried currently leads Roxbury’s aviation program, where he teaches the AOPA Foundation High School Aviation STEM Curriculum and is the co-advisor of the new aviation club. During his free time, he leads Rox-THON, an organization committed to fighting pediatric cancer by hosting an overnight dance marathon. Gottfried also enjoys traveling, with plans to visit all seven continents.

Michael Hangartner

*Senior Manager, Curriculum Development, AOPA Foundation*

Michael Hangartner is part of the team that develops the AOPA Foundation Curriculum. Hangartner earned a bachelor’s degree in business economics, an MBA at Bradley University, and a master’s degree in integrated marketing communications. Since joining AOPA in 2014, he has served in various roles, including as a financial analyst, research analyst, and manager of the Flying Club Initiative. Hangartner is an instrument-rated commercial pilot who enjoys flying both airplanes and helicopters and is a certificated remote pilot and flight instructor.

Abbey Hutter

*Executive Director, JSfirm.com*

As the executive director of JSfirm.com, an aviation job website, Abbey Hutter’s involvement with business development has helped produce continued, exponential growth year over year. Over the past nine years, she has played an integral role in creating and maintaining industry-leading partnerships with organizations and associations like AOPA. Hutter is a University of Pittsburgh graduate and previous collegiate athlete. She is a student pilot with aspirations of earning her private pilot certificate in the very near future.
Kyle Jaracz

*Education Director, Academy of Model Aeronautics*

Kyle Jaracz is a problem-solving creative who enjoys collaborating. A former Army Infantry team leader, Jaracz graduated from Anderson University with a degree in visual communications. He is highly skilled in leadership, management, and public speaking. Jaracz’s side hustles include freelance and contract work as a licensed Part 107 remote pilot and running his own business producing paramotor light/strobe kits. He has been published multiple times as a columnist and review author. And he has experience designing, engineering, and testing EVTOL urban air mobility craft to demonstrate advanced flight operations.

Matthew Johnston

*President, California Aeronautical University*

Matthew Johnston has over 28 years of experience in education and currently serves as the president of California Aeronautical University (CAU). CAU offers aviation-related degrees to prepare graduates as professional pilots, mechanics, and other aviation related professions. Johnston is a supporting participant with aviation associations including University Aviation Association, Regional Airline Association, Women in Aviation International, AOPA, NBAA, and EAA Young Eagles program. He continues his enthusiasm for aviation by flying his Cessna 182 and Super Decathlon.

April Lanotte

*STEM Integration Lead, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)*

April Lanotte has been an educator at the formal, informal, and federal agency levels for more than 20 years. Currently, the STEM integration lead for NASA’s Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate, Lanotte works with internal and external organizations to bring STEM education and NASA’s aeronautics work together. She supports aviation and STEM initiatives, including CTE. She also leads a statewide committee in Colorado that supports aviation and space education and workforce development, and she leads the statewide CTE High School Aviation Advisory Board. Lanotte is currently working on her doctoral degree in aviation education.

Crystal Maguire

*Executive Director, Aircraft Technician Education Council*

Crystal Maguire oversees strategic initiatives for the Aircraft Technician Education Council, the trade association representing FAA-certificated aviation maintenance technician schools. Maguire also serves as executive director of Choose Aerospace, an organization that promotes careers in aviation maintenance through high school aviation maintenance programs; as vice president of operations for the Aerospace Maintenance Council, hosts of the annual Aerospace Maintenance Competition; and as Of Counsel for a Denver-based firm. She received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Tulsa and a law degree from American University, Washington College of Law.
Susan Broderick Mallett
Aerospace/STEM Educator, Civil Air Patrol (CAP)
Susan Mallett is a retired teacher, administrator, and university instructor. Since 2006, she has served as the educational outreach programs coordinator at CAP’s national headquarters in Montgomery, Alabama. She works across the country with schools, museums, youth programs, and national aviation organizations to connect youth with aviation-related STEM products and programs, mentors, and career opportunities. Mallett created CAP’s K-12 STEM Kit program, which reaches over 2 million youth. She also created CAP’s K-6 Aerospace Connections in Education (ACE) program, touching over half a million students’ early aviation career interests.

Paul Maloy
Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), AeroEducate Program Manager
Paul Maloy is the EAA program manager of the newly launched AeroEducate youth education initiative. With a master’s in secondary education, he spent 16 years as a middle school U.S. history and speech and debate teacher. Malloy also ran an after-school aviation club and was the youth education leader with EAA Chapter 23 in Salt Lake City. Maloy loves working with kids of all ages, especially high-energy seventh and eighth graders. He holds a private pilot certificate and owns a 1960 Comanche 250.

Matthew Mawn
Aviation Teacher, Roxbury High School
An accomplished educator with over a decade of experience in the field of education, Mawn serves as the grades 7-12 supervisor of science, engineering, technology, design, and visual arts in Roxbury Public Schools. He plays a pivotal part in shaping students’ educational journeys, ensuring their preparedness for the ever-evolving fields within his purview. Mawn holds the position of adjunct professor at Ramapo College of New Jersey, where he brings a unique blend of real-world expertise and modern pedagogical approaches to higher education.

David Moorefield
Director of Flight Operations, Gaetz Aerospace Institute, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
David Moorefield, a graduate of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, started his aviation career in 1984 as a C-141B and C-5A mechanic in the U.S. Air Force. In 1989, he embarked on his flying career with the U.S. Navy where he instructed in helicopters and primary training aircraft. Since retiring from the Navy in 2012, he has flown professionally and been a project manager with Northrup Grumman. He has a master’s degree from the U.S. Naval War College in national security and strategic studies.
Chris Moser
*Senior Director, Flight Training Initiative, AOPA Foundation*

Chris Moser manages and supports programs related to growing and strengthening the pilot population. He redesigned the Rusty Pilots program, leads the Flight Training Experience Survey & Awards, and is the educational designer of AOPA’s adaptive flight training program. Moser holds a master’s degree in aviation and aerospace education from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and is a professional educator of over 25 years, including being a classroom teacher and flight instructor. Moser is also a musician and former freight pilot.

Orathai Northern, Ph.D.
*AVP, Career Pathways and Articulation, Polk State College*

Dr. Orathai Northern works at Polk State College as the associate vice president of career pathways and articulation. Her responsibilities include overseeing the Kenneth C. Thompson Institute for Public Safety, the National Public Safety Innovation Academy in partnership with the Polk County Sheriff’s Office, dual enrollment, transfer pathways, and articulation opportunities.

Jenny Peters, Ph.D.
*Aviation Teacher, Pryor High School*

Dr. Jenny Peters teaches AP physics, aviation, and engineering at Pryor High School in Pryor, Oklahoma. She is a seasoned educator with nearly two decades of experience in education at various levels. Peters is a former aerospace engineer with expertise in building educational experiences that encourage the development of a life-long learner mindset in her students. Peters is passionate about preparing students for their futures and showing them how to apply their academic knowledge to real-world situations.

Glenn Ponas
*Director, High School Outreach, AOPA Foundation*

Glenn Ponas leads the AOPA Foundation’s effort to expand the adoption and implementation of the High School Aviation STEM Curriculum. Ponas has 31 years of experience as a secondary teacher, aviation program founder, building and district level administrator, and curriculum development specialist with the Pittsburgh Public Schools. He is an FAA-certificated private pilot and remote pilot. He also served as an educational data systems consultant at the state and federal levels.
Katie Pribyl

*Ambassador to the AOPA Foundation*

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University graduate Katie Pribyl became an airline pilot at the age of 21, flying for a regional carrier. After the airline folded, she became director of communications for the General Aviation Manufacturers Association and later SVP of aviation strategy and programs for AOPA where she led the You Can Fly program and Air Safety Institute. Pribyl retired in 2019 to run her family’s 134-year-old cattle ranch and now is an ambassador to the AOPA Foundation and aviation consultant.

Capt. Jonathan Rothe

*Reserve Manpower Advisor, Air Force Recruiting Services, United States Air Force*

Capt. Jonathan Rothe is responsible for all reserve military personnel actions within headquarters, monitoring promotions, evaluations, and retirements. He also serves as an advisor for Aim High Flight Academy where he is responsible for training students and staff. Rothe focuses on promoting and developing future leaders in a holistic manner beyond aviation knowledge and skills. He previously served as the officer in charge of reserve affairs for USSPACECOM where he was responsible for Air Force Reserve functions within a joint environment.

Titus Sanders

*National ACE Academy Director, Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals*

Titus Sanders is a United Airlines first officer and retired chief warrant officer 4 U.S. Army aviator. In the Army, Sanders served as pilot-in-command in numerous aircraft models and completed six combat deployments. Today, he is director of the National ACE Academy for the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals. Sanders holds a bachelor’s degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and a master’s degree from Gonzaga University. He is currently pursuing his doctorate in aviation and space education at Oklahoma State University.

David Sarkisian

*Airline Pilot, Delta Air Lines*

David Sarkisian is an Airbus A330 captain for Delta Air Lines with over 22,000 flight hours. After graduating from Purdue University, Sarkisian was a flight instructor and charter pilot before joining the airlines in 1993. In 2017, he approached Morris Hills Regional School District about starting the AOPA High School Curriculum, and it became the first district in New Jersey to offer the program. Since then, 16 New Jersey high schools have adopted the curriculum. He is also webmaster of the New Jersey Aviation Education Council, which promotes aviation education statewide.
Christine Sharp  
*Manager, Aviation Workforce and Education Division, Federal Aviation Administration*

Christine Sharp oversees the FAA’s efforts to introduce students of all backgrounds to aerospace careers and provide them with pathways to ensure a diverse and robust aerospace workforce of the future. During her 30-year career with the FAA, Sharp has served as staff director in the Office of Aviation Workforce Outreach, manager for social collaboration and engagement in the Office of Communications, and various positions in the Office of International Affairs. She holds a master’s degree in Organizational Communication from George Mason University.

Elizabeth Tennyson  
*Senior Vice President, AOPA Foundation and You Can Fly*

Elizabeth Tennyson is responsible for the philanthropic arm of AOPA as well as programs designed to get people flying and keep them flying, including the Foundation’s High School Initiative. At AOPA, Tennyson has held positions as executive editor of Pilot magazine, vice president of publications, and vice president of aviation program operations. She holds undergraduate degrees from the University of Southern California and an MBA from the University of Maryland. Tennyson is an instrument-rated private pilot and co-owns an A36 Bonanza.

Michael Uleski  
*Lead UAS Instructor, FlightSafety International*

Michael Uleski began flying manned aircraft at the age of 17 and attended Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, earning a degree in aeronautical sciences along with a commercial pilot certificate. He started his own UAS services company in 2014; is cross trained as a law enforcement officer, firefighter, and EMT; and developed his agency’s UAS unit that began operations in 2015. In 2016, he began working as the chief public safety instructor for UAS and joined FlightSafety International in 2019 to develop and instruct courses related to UAS operations.

Carley Walker  
*Director of Development, STEM Flights*

Carley Walker is passionate about helping young people discover STEM and aviation career pathways. As the director of development for STEM Flights, a national nonprofit providing flight experiences to middle and high schoolers, Walker connects educators and students with volunteer pilot mentors in communities throughout the United States. She believes getting students into the cockpit can be life-changing, and her goal is to have a pilot mentor at every airport in the country.
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When you’re above the clouds, you realize that anything is possible. The U.S. Air Force can help you get there. If you want to pursue aviation, there are several careers you can explore including Pilot, Combat Systems Officer, Air Battle Manager or Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) Pilot.

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**Aerial Systems Group International**

ASGI is a premier provider of small uncrewed aerial system (SUAS) services. Our organization is a consortium of minority and veteran-owned companies specializing in innovative technology, education, and skills training for uncrewed pilot certification and operational deployment for under-represented communities. Capabilities include elementary STEM and STEAM programs, secondary Part 107 prep, and ADO SUAS workforce development training. [asgi.io](http://asgi.io)

**Aerospace Center for Excellence**

ACE, a 501c(3) non-profit, has emerged as a nationally recognized leader in STEM-related and aerospace education through its various learning centers, outreach programs, scholarships, and summer camps aimed at engaging, educating, and accelerating the new generation of aerospace professionals. [aceedu.org](http://aceedu.org)

**Aviation Supplies & Academics, Inc.**

ASA has been providing trusted aviation training products for more than 80 years to students, pilots, flight instructors, aviation mechanics, air traffic controllers, career aviators, remote pilots, and drone operators. ASA's pilot supplies, software, and publications are supported with integrity, consistency, and superior customer service. [asa2fly.com](http://asa2fly.com)

**AviNation**

AviNation is driven by a deep passion for aviation and a dedication to nurturing the dreams of aspiring aviators and future industry leaders and personnel. Our mission goes beyond words—we're here to inspire, educate, and empower the next generation. By sharing inspirational stories, providing invaluable insights, and fostering a supportive community, we're shaping the future of aviation. Join AviNation on this exhilarating journey as we pave the way for young minds to take flight and reach for the skies. [avinationusa.com](http://avinationusa.com)

**Boeing**

With more than a century of experience, Boeing's knowledge in bringing innovative service solutions to business aviation, general aviation, commercial, defense, and space customers has united to form Boeing Global Services, including its Jeppesen, Aviall, and ForeFlight brands. We're here, around the clock, around the world, and always ready. [boeing.com](http://boeing.com)

**ByteSpeed**

ByteSpeed has stood as a prominent provider of IT solutions tailored for educational institutions since 1999. Specializing in flight simulation, esports, and virtual reality, ByteSpeed offers STEM-centric resources that extend to all 50 states, alongside enterprise-networking solutions and expert IT services. Discover more at our website, where a dedicated focus on flight simulators takes flight. [bytespeed.com](http://bytespeed.com)

**California Aeronautical University**

CAU is a world-class training facility connected to Bakersfield International Airport in beautiful Southern California, where students live, eat, and breathe aviation. CAU offers aviation-related degree programs and training for students seeking careers as professional pilots and aviation business professionals. Financial aid and scholarships are available. [calaeo.edu](http://calaeo.edu)
Capitol Technology University
Capitol Technology University is a distinguished non-profit STEM institution founded in 1927. Specializing in fields such as computer science, cybersecurity, and electrical engineering, it offers a diverse range of majors, including aviation, construction management, computer engineering, astronautical engineering, and many more. The university’s primary mission is to shape the future’s leaders, equipping them with cutting-edge skills for emerging industries. Capitol Technology University is dedicated to providing an education that prepares students for the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow. captechu.edu

Choose Aerospace
Organized in 2020, Choose Aerospace is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) partnership of aerospace stakeholders, joined together to address one of the biggest threats to continued industry growth: the availability of a diverse, qualified technical workforce. A primary objective for Choose Aerospace is to make aviation technical programs more accessible to secondary education and to develop multiple career paths to success within the industry. Our goal is to create a program that fully supports pathway progression for 10,000 enrolled students by 2027. chooseaerospace.org

Delta Air Lines
No one better connects the world than Delta Air Lines, and we want to help your students take the first step in their aviation career. With an industry-leading pilot pathway and TechOps pipeline program, students have the opportunity to pursue their passion in STEM with either a career as a pilot or as an A&P. Delta’s powerful consumer brand, combined with Delta's unmatched competitive advantages—culture, operational reliability, global network, customer loyalty and an investment-grade balance sheet—create opportunities for long-term value creation. deltatechu.com; delta.com/us/en/careers/pilots/propel

Embraer Foundation
The Embraer Foundation, established in 2017 as a 501(c)(3) organization, is committed to making strategic social investments that positively impact the communities in which Embraer’s employees live and work. Our commitment to the community serves as the cornerstone of the Foundation’s three pillars: social investment, employee engagement through volunteerism, and inspiring aviation amongst youth. Through transformative alignment in each pillar, Embraer and its employees make a difference nationwide by forming meaningful partnerships that foster innovation in education, sustainability, aviation, and DEI. embraerfoundation.org

Experimental Aircraft Association
EAA is a community of passionate aviation enthusiasts that promotes recreational flying, inspires new participants, and enriches aviation participation. Learn about free Young Eagles flights for ages 8-17. AeroEducate is a free online resource hub where K-12 students can learn about aviation and careers. AeroEducate also provides free age-based classroom activities. EAA chapters can be the gateway to your local aviation community. eaa.org
Flying Classroom
Flying Classroom is a PK-12 supplemental curriculum that is based on Capt. Barrington Irving's expeditions around the globe. It is aligned to national educational standards while also focusing on college, career, and life skills. Every expedition is designed around creating solutions to real-world STEM+ challenges. Flying Classroom provides individualized, pre-packaged STEM+ consumables and materials kits as well as instructional support with on-demand teaching. We’re all about experimental and engineering focused, immersive learning experiences. flyingclassroom.com

Gleim Aviation
Gleim Aviation is the leader in aviation study materials, helmed by Dr. Irvin Gleim, a distinguished professor emeritus from the University of Florida. Gleim has been providing comprehensive training guides and online courses for over 45 years, helping pilots navigate FAA knowledge and practical tests. Gleim also offers flight simulation and STEM curriculums designed to effectively educate students on the wonders of aviation. gleimaviation.com

Jet Access
Jet Access is the first vertically integrated, fully transparent, full-service aviation management company in the industry. We are committed to making private jet travel safe, cost-effective, uncomplicated, and comfortable. We create tangible value for each aviation vertical we manage—it’s what makes us a genuine full-service provider. flyjetaccess.com

JetBlue
JetBlue took flight in February 2000; known for its low fares and excellent service, it carries customers to more than 100 destinations worldwide. The company is proud to inspire humanity through its product, culture, and hospitality. In 2005, JetBlue opened a state-of-the-art training facility in Orlando, Florida, promoting continual learning and reflecting the airline's distinct culture. Since then, over 22,000 crewmembers have attended new hire orientation and training. In 2015, JetBlue established a boutique hotel, fostering lasting relationships within JetBlue's training facility. jetblue.com

King Schools
King Schools has played a part in training over half a million pilots at one point in their career. For over 47 years, John and Martha King, King Schools founders, have engaged aviation students from around the world with their very popular teaching style. King Schools is well known for taking complex subjects and clarifying, simplifying, and, most of all, making them fun to learn. kingschools.com

Liberty Partners of Tallahassee, LLC
Liberty Partners of Tallahassee, LLC is a Florida-certified Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) comprised of dedicated professionals with diverse experiences, skills, and relationships that bolster our clients and their ability to succeed. Each member of the firm is well respected with strong, long-term working relationships within state and local government, the business community, and the advocacy community as a whole. Most significantly, Liberty Partners has been branded one of the firms best suited to represent emerging technologies. libertypartnersfl.com
LIFT Academy
is owned and operated by Republic Airways. LIFT was founded in 2018 to fulfill the demand
for airline-ready pilots, making it more accessible and attainable with a defined pathway to
a job as a Republic pilot. Our 12-month program's flight training curriculum is modeled after
Republic standard operating procedures, checklists, and flows. flywithlift.com

Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals
Founded in 1976, the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals is a nonprofit
organization dedicated to the encouragement and advancement of minorities in all aviation
and aerospace careers. OBAP members encourage diversity in the industry by supporting
aspiring aviation professionals through Project Aerospace, a series of scholarships,
mentoring, training, and youth-focused education programs. obap.org

Pitsco Education
For 50+ years, Pitsco has supplied classrooms with innovative and engaging kits,
equipment, and activities, putting the power of STEM/STEAM learning into students' hands
and minds. From dragsters to drones to drafting to makerspace, there are thousands of
products to choose from, providing a STEM learning experience like no other. pitsco.com

Purdue for Life Foundation
The Purdue for Life Foundation—created in 2020 by uniting the Purdue Alumni Association
and the University Development Office—helps people who love Purdue stay connected, get
involved, and give back. Keep an eye on our upcoming events portal, and keep in touch
through social media, joining Purdue Ties, and visiting our website often to enjoy alumnus
magazine content and more. If you’re a President's Council, John Purdue Club, or Purdue
Alumni Association member, there are even more ways to stay connected. purdueforlife.org

Redbird Flight Simulations
Redbird delivers innovative, reliable, and high-quality training devices, applications, and
content to flight schools, colleges, universities, K-12 schools, and individual pilots worldwide.
Established in 2006 and with more than 3,000 devices in service, Redbird has quickly
become the fastest-growing and most innovative provider of flight training technology in
the industry. redbirdflight.com

Rocket Drones
Rocket Drones is a pioneering educational platform specializing in drone technology
and training. We provide schools with drone racing kits, classroom STEM packages, and
cutting-edge curriculum to immerse students in the world of aviation. Beyond piloting, our
programs introduce learners to drone coding and commercial applications, preparing them
for the future’s tech-driven careers. With Rocket Drones, students not only learn, they soar.
rocketdrones.com

Simbird by Montauk Systems
Simbird is passionate about aviation. Our founder and CEO has been flying for over
35 years. Simbird is a product of Montauk Systems Corporation, a computer design
and development business and manufacturing concern founded in 2001. Our ability to
vigorously work with the customer through the product life cycle results in a sturdy,
well-engineered product that will last for many years. simbird.net
EXHIBITOR PROFILES

Southwest Airlines
Southwest operates one of the world’s most admired and awarded airlines, offering its one-of-a-kind value and hospitality at 121 airports across 11 countries. Southwest maintains an unprecedented record of no involuntary furloughs or layoffs. The maverick airline empowers more than 75,000 employees, cherishes a passionate loyalty among more than 126 million customers, and intends to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. careers.southwestair.com

StellarXplorers National Space Design Competition
StellarXplorers is a fun, hands-on competition that inspires high school and middle school students to explore education and careers in space, aviation, and other STEM disciplines. Teams are challenged to solve real-world space missions. This program engages students’ critical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, and leadership skills while giving them access to industry-grade training and software. stellarxplorers.org

STEM Flights
STEM Flights is a national nonprofit that provides no-cost flight experiences to middle and high school students to inspire America’s youth to pursue STEAM and aerospace careers. Students are paired with a volunteer pilot mentor in their community for a flight that includes airport orientation, preflight safety briefing, flight experience, and debrief. STEM Flights provides follow-up resources, including scholarship databases, career exploration, and mentoring. stemflights.org

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Textron is a $12.4 billion, multi-industry company employing 33,000 talented makers, thinkers, creators, and doers worldwide. We make things that fly, hover, zoom, and launch. Things that move people. Protect soldiers. Power industries. We serve customers in industries spanning aerospace and defense, specialized vehicles, turf care, and fuel systems. Visit our website to learn more about our six business segments. textron.com

The Flight Sim Academy
The Flight Sim Academy is a non-profit initiative to build and operate flight sim centers at GA airports across the United States. The goal is to provide state-of-the-art educational facilities, free of charge, to high schools and flight schools in the 30 largest metropolitan areas. We aim to significantly increase the number of high schools with aviation STEM programs, expose kids to the magic of flying, inspire them to choose an aviation career, and support them throughout their path. flyhoneycomb.com

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United States Air Force
The mission of the United States Air Force is to fly, fight, and win—airpower anytime, anywhere. We embrace the core values of integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do as guiding principles. The Air Force offers opportunities for young Americans to get an education, use their talents, achieve their goals, serve their country, and experience a high quality of life. Aim High! airforce.com

United States Army Aviation Warrant Officer Flight Training
United States Army Aviation Warrant Officer Flight Training (WOFT) or High School to Flight School is a decades old program allowing civilians to become US Army Warrant Officer Aviators. This is a highly competitive accessions program targeting civilians ages 18-32 with no prior aviation experience or college education requirement. Selected individuals will contract for MOS 153A, complete basic combat training, complete Warrant Officer Candidate School, and ultimately advanced airframe qualification in a rotary wing or fixed wing aircraft. recruiting.army.mil/ISO/AWOR/Civilian_WOFT/

UND Aerospace
UND Aerospace is a world-renowned center for aerospace learning, nationally acclaimed for our achievements in collegiate aviation education, atmospheric research, space studies, and earth system science and policy research. With more than 500 faculty and staff members, 2,000+ students from around the world, and myriad programs and projects, the John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences is setting the pace for the future of flight. aero.und.edu

Unmanned Safety Institute
USI is the ultimate source for workforce development, remote pilot sourcing, organizational safety solutions, and standards-based education, training, and professional safety-oriented certifications. USI empowers your program with industry relevant curriculum and creates career pathways for student employment. flyusi.com

Virtual Fly North America
Virtual Fly is the creator of affordable, high-quality, realistic, and FAA-approved professional flight simulators. Virtual Fly specializes in a broad range of simulation products from realistic flight controls to STEM-based training devices all the way up to full motion, FAA-approved flight training devices with an emphasis on quality and customer service. virtual-fly.com

Western Michigan University College of Aviation
WMU College of Aviation offers the only comprehensive aviation program at a public university in Michigan, and with just over 1,100 undergraduate students, it is one of the largest aviation programs in the nation. Backed by 80 years of aviation experience and our excellent industry reputation, the college is a powerful force in the future of aviation training. wmich.edu

Women in Aviation International
WAI is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the encouragement and advancement of women in all aviation career fields and interests. Scholarship awards are a major benefit of WAI membership, and they help our members reach their goals. Learn more at wai.org/scholarships. Girls in Aviation Day events help introduce young women to aviation and the free Aviation for Girls app provides year-round resources. Get involved with the new WAI Mentor Connect program just for WAI Members—be a mentor, get a mentor, or both! wai.org
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