



Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission

Media Contact: Harve Allen, Director of Communications

Phone: (405) 604-6916; Cell: (405) 301-3230; E-mail: harve.allen@oac.state.ok.us

3700 N. Classen Blvd., Suite 240, Oklahoma City, OK 73118

News Release

For Immediate Release

April 5, 2007

Aeronautics Commission Approves Aviation Education Grants

OKLAHOMA CITY – Many more Oklahoma students will have an opportunity to learn about aviation and aerospace in the coming year thanks to several education grants that the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission recently awarded to aviation-related academies and programs across the state.

“We are pleased to provide these worthwhile organizations with these education grants,” Commission Director Victor Bird said. “The programs these organizations offer help Oklahoma students see the value in learning and provide them with a better understanding of how math and science can be useful tools for them in the real world. Without these programs, many of our school kids would not be exposed to the exciting world of aviation and aerospace.”

The University of Oklahoma was awarded a grant totaling \$50,233 for its Sooner Flight Academy, a program that uses the dynamics of flight to help teach children and teachers the importance and excitement of mathematics, science and technology.

The grant will provide funding for Aviation Day School programs, the Student Internship program, as well as Ticket to Tomorrow, an aviation/aerospace outreach program for third through sixth graders that uses hands-on, problem-solving activities and inflatable space stations and space shuttles to help strengthen children’s math and science skills.

The OU Sooner Flight Academy will also use the grant funds for computer technology purchases and upgrades, scholarships and its on-site wind tunnel.

The Commission also awarded a \$15,500 grant to the Northern Oklahoma Flight Academy at Ponca City Regional Airport. The grant will fund scholarships for students with financial need who attend school in a 35-mile radius of Ponca City. It will also help pay for curriculum development and materials and supplies.

This will be the fourth year in a row that the Northern Oklahoma Flight Academy, which is co-sponsored by the Ponca City Aviation Booster Club, has brought aviation-based education to children and youth in northern Oklahoma to help them improve their math and science skills. During the three years of its existence, more than 150 students have graduated from the program.

In addition to providing education grants to the OU and Northern Oklahoma flight academies, the Commission also awarded a \$30,000 grant to STARBASE Oklahoma, Inc. The funds will be used to help expand the organization’s hands-on, education programs in Lawton/Fort Sill. Specifically, the funds will be used to purchase student and technology supplies for fourth and fifth grade students, as well as middle schools students. As part of the curriculum, students will be introduced to computer-aided drafting and will be required to build a model of the space shuttle.

STARBASE, which is an acronym for Science and Technology Academies Reinforcing Basic Aviation and Aerospace Exploration, works with school children and their teachers to encourage and inspire students to improve their math and science skills. It operates programs at the Tulsa Air National Guard Base, Will Rogers Air National Guard Base in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Space Industry Development Authority in Burns Flat, Tulsa Army Aviation Support Unit, Camp Gruber, Anadarko Armory and the Whittaker Education Training Center in Pryor. More than 3,900 students participated in these programs during the 2005-06 school year.

The Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission's mission is to promote aviation, which includes fostering the growth of the aerospace industry and ensuring the needs of commerce and communities across Oklahoma are met by the state's air transportation system comprising of 114 public airports.