



10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

YOU CAN FLY | HIGH SCHOOL

# AVIATION STEM SYMPOSIUM

Presented by Boeing

November 17-19 | Atlanta, GA



# CONTENTS

- [Welcome Letter](#) . . . . . 2
- [Sponsor Profiles](#) . . . . . 3
- [Agenda](#) . . . . . 6
- [General Session Speaker Bios](#) . . . . . 19
- [Breakout Session Speaker Bios](#) . . . . . 20
- [Exhibitor Profiles](#) . . . . . 33
- [Symposium Layout](#) . . . . . 41

## FREE WI-FI!

Compliments of our sponsor,  
Community College of Beaver  
County (CCBC)

Network ID: @Hyatt\_meeting  
Password: FlyCCBC



Scan for the latest 2024  
symposium information.

## ABOUT AOPA AND THE AOPA FOUNDATION



AOPA



AOPA FOUNDATION



HIGH SCHOOL INITIATIVE



HIGH SCHOOL AVIATION  
STEM CURRICULUM



-  **TAILORED MEMBER BENEFITS**
-  **400+ ASSOCIATIONS NATIONWIDE**
-  **AFFORDABLE SUPPLEMENTAL COVERAGE**
-  **COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE SOLUTIONS**



Welcome to the 2024 You Can Fly High School Aviation STEM Symposium, presented by Boeing.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Symposium, a celebration of our shared achievements and the exciting future ahead. Over the past decade, this event has welcomed thousands of participants from coast to coast. We've hosted educators from across the nation and around the world, and we've witnessed

countless teachers, schools, and communities create impactful aviation STEM programs that are changing lives.

As educators know, there is nothing more rewarding than seeing a young person excited about learning. Through aviation STEM, we've had the privilege of witnessing that excitement thousands of times as students discover the thrill of aviation and the real-world value of what they're learning in the classroom.

This Symposium grew out of a desire to bring meaningful aviation education to high school students. We wanted to help them explore the wide range of aviation careers and prepare them for success. Thanks to all of you, it's working.

To date, nearly 100,000 students have benefited from the AOPA Foundation High School Aviation STEM Curriculum, which we offer free of charge. These students are as diverse as our country itself, with big dreams for the future—and they're making those dreams a reality. Sixty percent of graduating seniors who have used the curriculum plan to pursue aviation careers as pilots, aerospace engineers, air traffic controllers, maintenance technicians, aviation attorneys, and many other well-paying, in-demand roles.

This year's Symposium is focused on giving you the tools to support these students and their ambitions. If you've attended an AOPA Foundation Symposium before, you know there's no better place to meet industry experts, network with experienced aviation educators, discover classroom resources, and connect with those who can help you create an ideal program for your students.

Over the next few days, you'll have the opportunity to engage with industry leaders and aviation STEM education experts who are eager to help you develop, expand, support, and even fund your program. With new boot camps and 30 breakout sessions over three days, you'll find answers to your questions, real-world perspectives, and practical tools you can apply immediately.

Thank you for joining us to celebrate this milestone. More importantly, thank you for your dedication to creating exceptional opportunities for your students.


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](http://boeing.com)

## GENERAL SPONSORS


 **California Aeronautical University (CAU)** is a world-class training facility connected to Bakersfield International Airport in Southern California, where students live, eat, and breathe aviation. The university offers aviation-related degree programs and training for students seeking careers as professional pilots and aviation business professionals. CAU students gain valuable experience you just can't get from off-airport instruction. Students benefit from CAU's relationships with industry partners, which can provide a direct pathway to a professional aviation career. Financial aid and scholarships are available. [calaero.edu](http://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. [stem.redbirdflight.com](http://stem.redbirdflight.com)

## MILITARY SPONSOR


 The **United States Air Force's** mission is to fly, fight, and win in air, space, and cyberspace. We embrace the core values of integrity first, service before self, and excellence as guiding principles. The Air Force values diversity, education, technology, innovation, and inclusion. 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](http://airforce.com)

## SILVER 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](http://embraerfoundation.org)

 **AMBA** has a storied history of serving retired public employees and educators, alumni groups, and professional organizations through tailored insurance and benefits solutions. Evolving from a single-client service, AMBA now serves more than 400 associations, helping them grow and serve their members while providing affordable and comprehensive supplemental benefits to millions of families and individuals. [getamba.com/index.php](http://getamba.com/index.php)

## WI-FI SPONSOR

 **Community College of Beaver County's (CCBC)** James M. Johnson School of Aviation is the place to find exceptionally trained aviation professionals. With a reputation for high quality and high standards, our associate degree and high school pathways put air-traffic controllers in every FAA-operated tower and pilots in cockpits of every major airline nationwide. Entering our 55th year of professional pilot training and 48th year of air traffic control education, CCBC's expanded offerings and premier partnerships will fuel the aviation industry's future [ccbc.edu](http://ccbc.edu)

## AOPA FOUNDATION SPONSORS

### TEXTRON

**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](http://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](http://williams-int.com)

## AGENDA

12:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Symposium Registration Open

LOCATION: TERRACE FOYER

1:00 P.M. – 3:45 P.M. | AVIATION BOOT CAMPS

**Aviation 101 Boot Camp *NEW!***

LOCATION: HANOVER HALL, BREAKOUT 4

*Glenn Ponas, AOPA Foundation*

*Chris Eckler, Ada City Schools*

*Jay Sarason, Sargent High School*

*Bruce Blashka, Gleim Aviation*

Are you new to teaching aviation? This nearly three-hour seminar will help you jump-start your understanding of aviation fundamentals. The session covers essential concepts such as aerodynamics, aircraft components, and systems. You'll also get an introduction to FAA regulations, the air traffic control system, and the National Airspace System (NAS). Additionally, you'll learn about the steps to becoming a pilot and discover free and low-cost resources to further build your aviation knowledge.

**Advanced Aviation Boot Camp *NEW!***

LOCATION: HANOVER HALL, BREAKOUT 3

*Dean Paul, AOPA Foundation*

*Michael Hangartner, Rexair Professional Pilot Academy*

*Grant Van Bavel, Immokalee High School*

*Bruce Blashka, Gleim Aviation*

This seminar is designed to equip educators with the essential information and resources to begin their journey toward earning an FAA ground instructor certificate. Participants will learn about the different types of ground instructor certificates, eligibility requirements, and the steps involved in certification. The session will also cover available study resources and strategies for preparing for the FAA Knowledge Tests. Please note that this seminar is an introduction; additional preparation will be required to fully prepare for the FAA Ground Instructor Knowledge Tests.

2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Exhibit Hall Open

LOCATION: GRAND HALL EAST

Stop by the CAU booth! #41

## EARN COLLEGE CREDIT FOR YOUR AOPA TRAINING

California Aeronautical University (CAU) is offering continuing education credits to K-12 teachers who complete the AOPA You Can Fly Curriculum Training, providing significant benefits to educators dedicated to aviation awareness.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS

- Advance your career with transcribed credits
- Open doors to new opportunities
- Potential for salary advancement

**LEARN MORE** [AOPAcredits@calaero.edu](mailto:AOPAcredits@calaero.edu) or scan the QR code

**3:45 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.**  
Networking Break

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

- Design. Configure. Fly: Introducing the All-New Drone Infinity Kit *NEW!***

LOCATION: HANOVER HALL, BREAKOUT 3

*David Meador, Pitsco Education*

Discover the Drone Infinity Kit, the newest technology for upper-level drone education by Pitsco Education. Attendees will witness how this configurable drone and its curriculum complement the learning objectives of the AOPA curriculum and reinforce the skills necessary for students to be successful UAS pilots and technicians.

**Sponsored by Pitsco Education.**

- Introducing the AOPA Foundation High School Aviation STEM Curriculum (repeats on Monday)**

LOCATION: HANOVER HALL, BREAKOUT 4

*Elizabeth Tennyson, AOPA*

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

**5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.**  
Opening Night Social

LOCATION: GRAND HALL EAST, PREFUNCTION AREA FOYER

**7:30 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.**  
Breakfast

LOCATION: REGENCY BALLROOM

**7:30 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.**  
Registration Open

LOCATION: TERRACE FOYER

**7:30 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.**  
Exhibit Hall Open

*(Closed during Opening General Session)*

LOCATION: GRAND HALL EAST

**9:00 A.M. – 10:15 A.M. | OPENING GENERAL SESSION**

LOCATION: REGENCY BALLROOM

**Keynote Speaker:**

*Sean D. Tucker, Renowned Aviator, Aerobatic Pilot, Founder/President, Bob Hoover Academy*

Join celebrated aviator, aerobatic pilot, and Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Living Legend of Flight Sean D. Tucker for an exciting keynote talk in which he shares his aviation journey and how it led him to the creation of the Bob Hoover Academy in Salinas, CA. Sean will discuss how the Academy prepares students for success in life and aviation using the AOPA Foundation's High School Aviation STEM Curriculum for classroom instruction. Sean's can-do, failure-is-not-an-option attitude shines through as he shares actionable tips for how schools can raise up all students and prepare them for aerospace career success.

**10:15 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.**  
Networking Break

- Elevate Your Classroom: How CAU Can Support Your Dedication to Aviation Awareness *NEW!***

LOCATION: THE LEARNING CENTER

*Matthew Johnston, California Aeronautical University*

*Megan Dutto, California Aeronautical University*

Join California Aeronautical University (CAU) to explore how CAU supports you and your classroom! Discover the continuing education credits we're offering teachers and CAU's new articulation agreement for eligible schools, providing students the opportunity to demonstrate proficiency and apply for college credit—the perfect complement to the AOPA Foundation High School Aviation STEM Curriculum.

**Sponsored by California Aeronautical University.**

- Beyond the Flight Deck: Non-Pilot Careers in Aviation *NEW!***

LOCATION: HANOVER HALL, BREAKOUT 1

*Abbey Hutter, JSfirm.com*

*Willie Billingslea, Auburn University School of Aviation*

*Colleen Conklin, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University*

*Amelia Green, ForeFlight*

*John Higgs, Community College of Beaver County*

The aviation ecosystem needs professionals from all disciplines, including but not limited to maintenance, manufacturing, medical, legal, computer science, engineering, and business. This session will introduce participants to the entire spectrum of aviation-related careers, proving the adage that if you can think of a job, it probably exists in the aviation field.

- Military Academies as a Pathway to Aerospace Careers *NEW!***

LOCATION: HANOVER HALL, BREAKOUT 2

*2d Lt Liam Dineen, United States Air Force Academy*

Military academies represent viable pathways for students to careers in aviation and college degrees—paid for by the Federal government. In this session, a United States Air Force Academy representative will discuss the benefits and commitments associated with a military academy education. Also included is a deep dive into the Air Force Academy application process and tips for maximizing students' chances of receiving a nomination and appointment.

- Introducing the AOPA Foundation High School Aviation STEM Curriculum**

LOCATION: HANOVER HALL, BREAKOUT 3

*Elizabeth Tennyson, AOPA*

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

- Before You Buy: Simulator Options, Types, and What's Coming with AI and VR?**

LOCATION: HANOVER HALL, BREAKOUT 4

*Michael Smith, Colonel Zadok Magruder High School*

*Ray Bedard, True Course Simulations*

*John DiMattei, SimBird Montauk Systems*

*Ryan Jeff, 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, emerging technologies, and how you can put them to work in your classroom and bring aviation concepts to life.

11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Lunch

LOCATION: REGENCY BALLROOM

1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. | BREAKOUT SESSIONS

- Something for Everyone: Free and Low-cost PK-12 Resources to Help Your Program Soar**

LOCATION: THE LEARNING CENTER

*Jim Brough, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)*

*Holly Gutierrez, NASA Aeronautics*

*Kyle Jaracz, Academy of Model Aeronautics*

*Susan Mallett, Civil Air Patrol*

*Paul Maloy, Experimental Aircraft Association*

Round out your aviation program with free, low-cost materials and flight opportunities from prestigious aerospace organizations. Discover the wealth of content available to you and your students.

**The Aviation Job Outlook: Reading the Tea Leaves *NEW!***

**LOCATION: HANOVER HALL, BREAKOUT 1**

*Abbey Hutter, JSfirm.com*

Industry reports continue to indicate an unprecedented demand for pilots, mechanics, and other aerospace STEM professionals. At the same time, recent hiring trends in some market segments have not aligned with these indicators. So, what's the real story? Abbey Hutter of JSfirm.com will separate fact from fiction and provide a clearer picture of the future of aviation hiring.

**Introducing the ACE Middle School Aviation STEM Curriculum *NEW!***

**LOCATION: HANOVER HALL, BREAKOUT 2**

*Eric Crump, Aerospace Center for Excellence*

The Aerospace Center For Excellence (ACE) on the campus of SUN 'n FUN at the Lakeland International Airport has created a free, world-class aviation curriculum designed explicitly for middle-grade-level students. Designed to excite and educate students about aviation, the course is also constructed to integrate seamlessly into the AOPA Foundation High School Aviation STEM Curriculum. Here's your chance to meet the curriculum development team and get a look "under the cowling" of this exciting middle school course offering.

**The Future of Aviation Technologies: Crewed and Autonomous Aircraft *NEW!***

**LOCATION: HANOVER HALL, BREAKOUT 3**

*John Eberhart, ATA Aviation*

Recent innovations in crewed and autonomous flight are transforming the future of aviation. Take a peek into the future as we explore emerging technologies such as autonomous and remote aircraft, new aircraft types, electric and hydrogen-fueled, supersonic, flight deck automation, industry-specific drones, advanced air mobility, and virtual reality training. How do we prepare the next generation for what's coming?

**From Great Idea to Day One of Instruction: Guide to Starting a New High School Aviation Program**

**LOCATION: HANOVER HALL, BREAKOUT 4**

*Glenn Ponas, AOPA Foundation*

You want to start an aviation program that prepares students for STEM career success, but how do you turn that idea into reality? AOPA Foundation team members 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.

**2:00 P.M. – 2:15 P.M.**

**Networking Break**

**2:15 P.M. – 3:15 P.M. | BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**Best Practices for Using a Simulator in the Classroom *NEW!***

**LOCATION: THE LEARNING CENTER**

*Greg Roark, Redbird Flight Simulations*

While perhaps you have the next Sean D. Tucker or Patty Wagstaff in your class, even those legends started by keeping the blue side up and the brown side down. So, how do you get your students to treat the flight simulator like a learning tool rather than a video game?

**Sponsored by Redbird Flight Simulations.**

**How to Find and Cultivate Financial Support for Your Program: Fundraising and Grants 101 *NEW!***

**LOCATION: HANOVER HALL, BREAKOUT 1**

*Glenn Ponas, AOPA Foundation*

*Paula Kedy, Oklahoma Department of Aerospace & Aeronautics*

*Mike McHugh, North Dakota Aeronautics Commission*

*Derek Rowe, Tullahoma High School Aerospace*

Need money to start or expand your school's aviation program? Many sources, such as federal and state grants and CTE funding, could be available each year. Learn how to tap into these sources to make your aviation program soar!

**Medical Update: The Changing Landscape and What It Could Mean for You and Your Students *NEW!***

**LOCATION: HANOVER HALL, BREAKOUT 2**

*Cade Halle, AOPA Foundation*

Recent changes to FAA medical certificate policies and procedures, particularly in the areas of mental health, cardiac, and vision, have made becoming a pilot more accessible. Our FAA medical policy experts will discuss the nature of the changes and outline the implications for anyone, including high school students and teachers, who intend to pursue an FAA pilot certification.

**Aviation Competitions: Engaging Students and Promoting Networking *NEW!***

LOCATION: HANOVER HALL, BREAKOUT 3

*Doug Adomatis, Greenville Technical Charter High School*

*Jim Brough, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)*

*Andrew Ross, National Intercollegiate Flying Association*

*Kyle Sanders, CrewConcept Drone Lab*

*Chris Tonn, Rocket Drones*

Aviation competitions are a great way to engage students, extend learning, help them showcase their aviation knowledge, and build critical teamwork and competitive skills. A panel of experts, including AOPA Foundation Curriculum teachers who have founded competitions and representatives of organizations that sponsor competitions, will share details of state, regional, and national competitions and discuss how you can prepare your students to participate or to build your own competition.

**Deep Dive: Work Through an AOPA Foundation High School Aviation STEM Curriculum Lesson**

LOCATION: HANOVER HALL, BREAKOUT 4

*George Anderson, School District of Indian River County*

*David Purser, Karnes City Independent School District*

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.

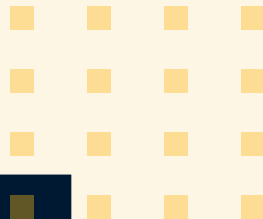
**3:15 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.**

Networking Break

**3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

Exhibit Hall Reception

LOCATION: GRAND HALL EAST



**7:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.**

Registration Open

LOCATION: TERRACE FOYER

**7:30 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.**

Breakfast

LOCATION: REGENCY BALLROOM

**7:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.**

Exhibit Hall Open

LOCATION: GRAND HALL EAST

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

**The Role Sims Can Play in Your Teaching Methods *NEW!***

LOCATION: THE LEARNING CENTER

*Ray Bédard, True Course Simulations*

Ray Bédard, founder of True Course Simulations (TCS), is a pioneer in flight simulation and training solutions. Recognizing the limitations of traditional teaching methods, he embarked on a mission to revolutionize pilot training through immersive simulation experiences. Ray will describe the process of implementing the TCS Learning System in a Career Technical and Education Center in South Carolina. *Sponsored by True Course Simulations.*

**Implementing Career and Technical Education Programs of Study: A Regulatory and Practical Guide *NEW!***

LOCATION: HANOVER HALL, BREAKOUT 1

*Glenn Ponas, AOPA Foundation*

*Nicholas Chambers, Poudre School District Career Tech Center*

*Mike McHugh, North Dakota Aeronautics Commission*

*Eric Nulton, The Applied Research Laboratory at Penn State University*

Creating an approved aviation Career and Technical Education program is a great way to enhance career preparation programs and tap into extensive state and Federal CTE funding. But the pathway to program approval can be daunting, and approval processes vary widely by state. This session will introduce the aviation CTE landscape, attempt to demystify the process, and discuss how the AOPA Foundation can support schools on their journey to CTE program approval.



**Let's Build an Airplane: How to Engage Students in Aircraft Construction *NEW!***

**LOCATION: HANOVER HALL, BREAKOUT 2**

*Brian Hughes, Central Florida Aerospace Academy, Winter Haven & Aspiring Aviators Aero Club*

*Craig Anthony, Tango Flight*

*Paul Maloy, Experimental Aircraft Association*

*Derek Rowe, Tullahoma High School Aerospace*

*Dan Weyant, Tango Flight*

Building an airplane is a time-honored tradition in the U.S. and a great way to learn airplane components, design, and important aircraft manufacturing skills. In this session, we'll explore the many options for engaging students in aircraft builds, from volunteering on existing builds at the local airport to building an airplane as part of a formal aircraft manufacturing curriculum.

**Hands-on Learning: Curriculum Activities Lab**

**LOCATION: HANOVER HALL, BREAKOUT 3**

*AOPA Foundation High School Aviation STEM Curriculum Educators*

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 and informative student activities found in our lessons with experienced teachers who can share their tips for classroom success.

**Drones in the Classroom**

**LOCATION: HANOVER HALL, BREAKOUT 4**

*Chris Eckler, Ada City Schools*

*David Meador, Pitsco Education*

*Brandon Turk, Rocket Drones*

Flying drones in class is a lot of fun, but these machines are more tools than toys. Like any tool, the mission should drive which tool to buy. Learn strategies for getting the most from your drones, with a focus on drone selection, maintenance, management, and accessories worth having.

**10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.**  
**Networking Break**

**10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. | BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**Eliminating Barriers to Aerospace with Drones**

**LOCATION: THE LEARNING CENTER**

*Josh Olds, Unmanned Safety Institute*

In the next 50 years, drone technology and emerging aviation advancements will be hailed as the driving force behind the growth of aviation careers. With nearly 800,000 registered drones operating in our national airspace, there has never been a more opportune time for students to engage with the aerospace industry.

**Sponsored by Unmanned Safety Institute.**

**Beyond the Classroom: How Do You Convince Your District to Engage in Crewed and Unmanned Flight? *NEW!***

**LOCATION: HANOVER HALL, BREAKOUT 1**

*Chris Eckler, Ada City Schools*

*Brian Hughes, Central Florida Aerospace Academy, Winter Haven & Aspiring Aviators Aero Club*

*Paul Maloy, Experimental Aircraft Association*

*Carley Walker, STEM Flights*

Districts cite cost, risk, liability, and regulatory concerns as the most common obstacles to considering options for students flying airplanes and drones. This session will explore the facts and myths surrounding high school flight and drone training and discuss strategies for overcoming concerns and getting students in the air.

**Soft Skills for Aviation Students: The NEW Career Preparation Course *NEW!***

**LOCATION: HANOVER HALL, BREAKOUT 2**

*Michael Hangartner, Rexair Professional Pilot Academy*

*Brad Schwandt, Kentucky Department of Aviation*

Here's your chance to delve deep into the AOPA Foundation's newest course offering: The Career Preparation Course (CPC). The one-semester CPC gives students the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in today's aviation workforce. Including "soft" and technical skills will make them competitive in the job market. Learn how to add the grade 12 capstone semester to create a full-year course where students prepare for and document their internships, externships, and apprenticeship experiences.

**Aviation Maintenance: Adding a High School Pathway and Career Opportunities**

LOCATION: HANOVER HALL, BREAKOUT 4

*Crystal Maguire, Choose Aerospace*  
*Kelly Filgo, Choose Aerospace*

America needs as many new aviation maintenance technicians as new pilots. Learn how to add a maintenance pathway to your high school aviation program and discover career and training opportunities for graduates.

11:15 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

Networking Break

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

**Creating High School Aviation Clubs to Engage Students**

LOCATION: HANOVER HALL, BREAKOUT 1

*Cade Halle, AOPA Foundation*  
*Brian Hughes, Central Florida Aerospace Academy,*  
*Winter Haven & Aspiring Aviators Aero Club*

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.

**Aviators Wanted: The United States Air Force**

LOCATION: HANOVER HALL, BREAKOUT 2

*Captain Jonathan Rothe, United States Air Force*

Where can the United States Air Force take your students? Air Force representatives will discuss how the Air Force can help students discover their strengths, learn new skills, earn a degree, and make their aviation careers take flight.

**Meet Your Resources: Getting Hands-on with the FAA and Aerospace STEM Organizations**

LOCATION: HANOVER HALL, BREAKOUT 3

*Chris Sharp, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)*  
*Jim Brough, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)*  
*Representatives from Aerospace STEM Organizations*

In this round-robin format interactive session hosted by the Federal

Aviation Administration, you'll meet individually with representatives of multiple aerospace STEM organizations. See what free resources each organization offers, engage in sample activities, and ask questions of this esteemed group of aviation education experts.

**Ask Me Anything: Q&A With AOPA Foundation Curriculum Teachers *NEW!***

LOCATION: HANOVER HALL, BREAKOUT 4

*Raymond Gonzalez, Ed.D, Fordham Preparatory School*  
*Paula Kedy, Oklahoma Department of Aerospace & Aeronautics*  
*Jenny Peters, Ph.D., Pryor High School*  
*Derek Rowe, Tullahoma High School Aerospace*

You've had a wonderful time at the Symposium and learned a lot, but you still have questions. This session is your chance to get answers from the experts who live the program every day—AOPA Foundation staff and veteran AOPA Foundation Curriculum teachers and administrators.

12:30 P.M. – 2:30 P.M. | LUNCH & CLOSING GENERAL SESSION

LOCATION: REGENCY BALLROOM

**Keynote Speaker:**

***2nd Lt. Madison Marsh, U.S. Air Force Active Duty,***  
***Reigning Miss America***

Air Force Academy graduate and US Air Force 2LT Megan Marsh is the first active-duty service member to earn the Miss America crown. Marsh is using her national platform to help dispel stereotypes and empower America's youth to realize their dreams and true potential through aviation.

2025 Symposium Announcement

## GENERAL SESSION SPEAKERS

### OPENING GENERAL SESSION:

Monday, November 18, 2024

9:00 a.m. — 10:15 a.m.



#### Keynote Speaker

**Sean Tucker**

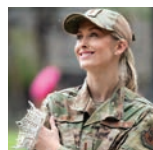
*Renowned Aviator, Aerobatic Pilot, Founder/President, Bob Hoover Academy*

Sean D. Tucker is a celebrated aviator and aerobatic pilot committed to enhancing flight safety and inspiring the next generation. As founder of the Bob Hoover Academy, he provides transformative STEM education opportunities for at-risk teens through aviation. He also chaired the Young Eagles program, introducing millions to aviation. Among his accolades, Sean was named one of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum's 25 Living Legends of Flight and inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame. His signature biplane now greets visitors at the National Air and Space Museum.

### CLOSING GENERAL SESSION:

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

12:30 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.



#### Keynote Speaker

**2nd Lt. Madison Marsh**

*U.S. Air Force Active Duty, Reigning Miss America*

From a young age, U.S. Air Force 2nd Lt. Madison Marsh had a love of science and a dream to be a pilot and astronaut. When she learned that she could further her ambitions by going to the Air Force Academy, she started working toward becoming a cadet, even earning her civilian pilot's license at 17 years old. As the first active-duty service member to earn the Miss America crown, Marsh is using her national platform to help dispel stereotypes and empower America's youth to realize their dreams and true potential through aviation.

## BREAKOUT SESSION SPEAKERS



#### Doug Adomatis

*Aviation Educator, Greenville Technical Charter High School*

Doug Adomatis is on a mission to train the next generation of pilots, aerospace engineers, and aircraft technicians. He is a recipient of the AOPA Foundation Teacher Flight Training Scholarship, an amateur radio operator, and a SCUBA diver. He also serves as the faculty sponsor of the

GTCHS after-school Aerospace Club and is responsible for planning the high school aviation competition, AviCom.



#### George Anderson

*Aerospace Technology Teacher, Indian River Schools*

George is responsible for a three-year Aerospace Technologies CTE program at Sebastian River High School. He has 33 years in education and is skilled in Geographic Information Systems, having taught and built a high school GIS program that functioned for 10 years. He managed and instructed within an

Environmental Science Academy program and provided teacher training in the areas of high school reform and environmental science.



#### Craig Anthony

*Director of Development, Tango Flight*

Craig is a retired Navy captain who served 26 years as a Surface Warfare Officer. He holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from The University of Texas at Austin, a master's in strategic studies from the U.S. Naval War College in Rhode Island, and a master's in International Relations from Troy

University in Alabama. He has extensive experience in program, budget, and resource planning. He also served on the Curriculum Advisory Board for the Navy's JROTC program.



#### Ray Bédard

*President, True Course Simulations*

Ray Bédard, founder and President of True Course Simulations (TCS), is a pioneer in flight simulation and training solutions. Recognizing the limitations of traditional teaching methods, he embarked on a mission to revolutionize pilot training through immersive simulation experiences.



#### Willie Billingslea

*Lecturer, Auburn University School of Aviation*

Willie Billingslea is a Lecturer at Auburn University School of Aviation. He is a retired Navy captain with numerous command tours, including command of Training Air Wing Six in Pensacola, Florida. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, he is also a Naval Flight Officer with over 2,500 hours in various

aircraft, including the A-6, EA-6B, and F/A-18 B/D/F. Willie Billingslea is also a graduate of the Navy's Test Pilot School and a Ph.D. candidate in Education at Auburn University.



**Bruce Blashka**

*Aviation Training Consultant, Gleim Aviation*

Bruce has been involved in aviation for over 45 years as an Avionics Technician, Military Pilot (fixed-wing, helicopters, and RPV-drones), Military Flight Instructor, Instrument Instructor, Instructor-Instructor, and TraWing 5 Command VIP Pilot. He has been with Gleim Aviation since 2016. Passionate about helping STEM programs succeed, he is a co-founder of Hidden Treasures, an organization dedicated to cultivating and supporting new STEM-based programs that assist inner-city, minority, and disadvantaged teenagers in realizing their potential and finding opportunities for success through aviation.



**James Brough**

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

James Brough has been with the FAA's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Aviation and Space Education (AVSED) Program since 2008. Before joining the FAA, Jim was an educator for 21 years. He provides national leadership in preparing students to enter the aerospace industry workforce. As a private pilot and aircraft owner, Jim brings a unique perspective to his role with the National STEM AVSED program.



**Nicholas Chambers**

*Aviation Teacher, Poudre School District Career Tech Center*

Nicholas Chambers is an accomplished educator with 12 years of experience in mathematics and uncrewed aviation. Holding both a B.S. and M.S. in Mathematics, he is also a licensed Part 107 pilot. Nicholas, recognized as the Rocky Mountain Section AIAA K-12 Teacher of the Year, has collaborated with the Colorado State University Drone Center on grants to enhance drone education, training students and teachers across Colorado. He is passionate about integrating technology into education and empowering others through hands-on learning.



**Colleen Conklin**

*Ed.D., Executive Director, Gaetz Aerospace Institute, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University*

Dr. Colleen Conklin is an Assistant Professor of Aeronautical Science and Executive Director of the Gaetz Aerospace Institute at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. She leads initiatives impacting over 25,000 students through dual enrollment and outreach programs in more than 200 secondary schools nationwide. Under her leadership, the institute developed a series of SMART@ER middle and high school courses in Space, Manufacturing, Aviation, Robotics, and Technology. As an FAA-certified Remote Pilot, Dr. Conklin is dedicated to advancing aerospace education and inspiring future aviation professionals.



**Eric Crump**

*Vice President / Chief Operating Officer, Aerospace Center for Excellence*

Eric Crump is the VP and COO of the Aerospace Center for Excellence in Lakeland, Florida. Eric 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, Eric focuses on building and developing education and career pathways for young people in the aviation/aerospace industry.



**John DiMattei**

*President and Chief Executive Officer, Simbird Montauk Systems*

John DiMattei is the president and chief executive officer of Simbird by Montauk Systems. He is the designer of the Simbird 1000C FAA-approved Basic Aircraft Training Device. He has over 40 years of avionics engineering experience. He is also an instrument-rated commercial pilot.



**2nd Lt. Liam Dineen**

*Admissions Advisor, Pilot Trainee, United States Air Force Academy*

2nd Lt. Dineen is a graduate of the Air Force Academy class of 2024. He currently serves as an Admissions Advisor for the Georgia, northern Florida, & southern South Carolina regions. He will attend pilot training at Laughlin AFB, TX in August 2025. While attending the Academy, 2d Lt Dineen majored in aeronautical engineering and was a member of the Academy's Rugby and Model United Nations clubs. He looks forward to answering questions about aviation opportunities at the Air Force Academy!



**Megan Dutto**

*Academic Dean, California Aeronautical University*

With 21 years of experience as a physics, engineering, and aviation high school teacher, Megan Dutto serves as California Aeronautical University's Academic Dean. An avid supporter of the AOPA curriculum, she's a passionate advocate for educators and committed to empowering teachers by providing the resources to support the classroom.



**John S Eberhardt III**

*Managing Director, ATA Aviation*

John is the Managing Director of ATA Aviation, which builds the public digital backbone of Advanced Air Mobility. He has developed systems for federal agencies, commercial aviation, clinical decision support, and logistics analysis. John is also one of the founders of the Virginia Flight Information Exchange (VA-FIX) and ATA, an FAA Low Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability (LAANC) Uncrewed Aircraft Systems Service Supplier. John enjoys spending time at airports, often with sensors on the roof.



**Chris Eckler**

*District Director of STEAM and High School Aviation Instructor, Ada City Schools*

Chris Eckler is a teacher in the Ada City School District at Ada High School, where he has taught mathematics and field-tested the AOPA Foundation High School Aviation STEM Curriculum. He takes pride in being a lifelong learner, taking on new tasks and experiences, such as earning his private pilot and Part 107 certifications alongside his students. Outside of school, Chris serves as the EAA Chapter 1005 Treasurer and Young Eagle Coordinator, sharing his aviation experience with students across the region.



**Kelly Filgo**

*Director of Operations, Choose Aerospace*

Kelly Filgo is the Director of Operations for Choose Aerospace, a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating a diverse and qualified aviation technician workforce. He has held faculty roles at Texas State Technical College and Texas A&M University's aviation programs. He holds a master's degree in Higher Education Administration and has served multiple terms on the Aviation Technician Education Council's Board of Directors. Kelly is married to a librarian, has four sons, and builds model airplanes for fun. He lives in Waco, TX.



**Raymond Gonzalez**

*ISTEAM Coordinator/Science Faculty, Fordham Preparatory School Director, Mid-Atlantic Pilot's Association*

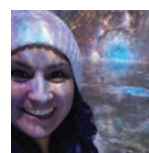
Dr. Raymond D. González, a Bronx native, holds degrees from Fordham University, including a Doctor of Education from Manhattanville College. Since 2002, he has taught at Fordham Preparatory School, focusing on improving laboratory writing and explorations. As ISTEAM coordinator, he oversees programs in Aeronautical Science, Robotics, 3D Printing, and Sports Analytics. Raymond's aviation education work has been recognized by AOPA and the Bronx Times. He has 100 flight hours and is preparing for his PPL check ride.



**Amelia Green**

*Community Marketing and Merchandising Coordinator, ForeFlight*

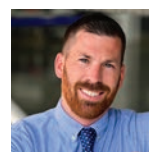
Since 2023, Amelia has been an integral part of the ForeFlight marketing team, ensuring pilots worldwide know about new features to make their flying more efficient, safe, and fun. Coming from a family of aviators, including airline pilots, Amelia's love for flying started early. She earned her Private Pilot certificate at 17 after being awarded an AOPA You Can Fly High School Flight Training Scholarship. While attending the University of Georgia, she helped start an annual scholarship to help students become private pilots while serving as President of the UGA Aviation Club, where she still mentors UGA students interested in aviation. Amelia also holds a master's degree in Marketing from Vanderbilt University.



**Holly Gutierrez**

*STEM Support Specialist, NASA Aeronautics*

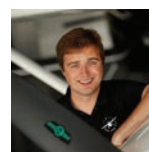
Holly Gutierrez lives in Texas and supports NASA Aeronautics in Washington, D.C. She is the first in her family to attend college, earning a bachelor's degree in education from Huston-Tillotson University and a master's degree in Science Curriculum and Instruction from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. She spent 10 years as a classroom teacher, primarily working with early childhood and elementary school students. In her current role, Holly helps facilitate NASA Aeronautics student challenges, STEM content and resources, public engagement, and community outreach.



**Cade Halle**

*Sr. Manager, Flying Clubs Initiative, AOPA Foundation*

Cade Halle leads the AOPA Foundation Flying Clubs Initiative. He holds a private pilot certificate and is a formation-qualified AOPA staff pilot. Before joining AOPA, Cade was a critical care flight paramedic for a Level 1 trauma center. He later served as a police officer in Charleston, SC, where he was a tactical paramedic on the SWAT team. Cade began with AOPA as a Medical Certification Specialist before transitioning to his current role.



**Michael Hangartner**

*Director, Professional Pilot Training, Rexair Professional Pilot Academy*

Michael is a flight instructor and commercial airplane, helicopter, and drone pilot who has worked in the aviation industry for over a decade. In that time, one of his proudest accomplishments was helping to develop and write the AOPA Foundation High School Aviation Curriculum. As Director, Professional Pilot Training at Rexair Professional Pilot Academy in Sebring, FL, Michael supervises Rexair's fast-track, accelerated airline pilot program—a program which includes both the technical and soft skills necessary to set students up for career success.



**John Higgs**

*Senior Dean, James M. Johnson School of Aviation Sciences, Community College of Beaver County*

Dr. John Higgs is senior dean of the James M. Johnson School of Aviation Sciences, Community College of Beaver County. In this capacity, he works with a team of highly experienced and dedicated aviation professionals to encourage and support students' aviation aspirations. Higgs is retired Air Force with flight and instructor time in the KC-135, FB-111, and T-43 aircraft. Including 10 years of teaching and leadership experience at the United States Air Force Academy and the United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School, Higgs has 30 years of experience in post-secondary education.



**Brian Hughes**

*Head of Program, Central Florida Aerospace Academy, and Aspiring Aviators Aero Club*

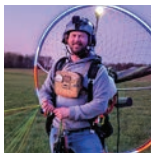
Brian Hughes is the Head of Program at the Central Florida Aerospace Academy in Winter Haven, FL, where its unique airport campus offers students countless aviation and aerospace education opportunities. He also serves as president of the Aspiring Aviators Aero Club, fostering a passion for flight in young aviators by providing hands-on experiences and leadership opportunities. With a focus on education and real-world experience, Brian is committed to empowering the next generation of pilots, engineers, and aviation leaders.



**Abbey Hutter**

*Executive Director, JSfirm.com*

As the executive director of JSfirm.com—an aviation job website, Abbey's involvement with business development has helped produce continued, exponential growth year over year. Additionally, over the last 10 years, she has played an integral role in creating and maintaining industry-leading partnerships with organizations and associations like AOPA. Abbey is a University of Pittsburgh graduate and previous collegiate athlete who has her student pilot certificate with aspirations of earning her PPL in the very near future.



**Kyle Jaracz**

*Education Director, Academy of Model Aeronautics*

Kyle is a problem-solving creative with a passion for collaboration. A former Army Infantry team leader and graduate of Anderson University in visual communications, he serves as the Director of Education at the Academy of Model Aeronautics. A licensed Part 107 pilot, Kyle has conducted advanced air mobility test flights for DARPA projects and has presented at numerous professional conferences. He is also an experienced writer, published in aviation magazines and actively pursues model aviation and powered paragliding.



**Ryan Jeff**

*Chief Part 141 Instructor, Gleim Aviation*

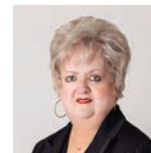
Ryan Jeff graduated summa cum laude from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Aeronautics and Applied Meteorology. He has been with Gleim since 2019 and manages the company's Part 141 program and flight simulation development. As an industry expert in both realms, Ryan travels to conferences to present on regulatory requirements, updates, and the industry outlook. Gleim supports over 1,000 simulators nationwide, providing would-be pilots with affordable and accessible aeronautical experience. Our purpose is threefold: educating people, advancing careers, and elevating professions.



**Matthew Johnston**

*President, California Aeronautical University*

Matthew Johnston has 30+ years of experience in education instruction and administration. As President of California Aeronautical University, he has established strong relationships with local, state, and national aviation entities representing all interests, including airports, manufacturing, various operators, associations, and advocacies. He currently serves on an Airport Advisory Commission overseeing two county airports and is a board member and Young Eagles pilot for a local EAA chapter.



**Paula Kedy**

*Statewide Aerospace STEM Education Manager, Oklahoma Department of Aerospace & Aeronautics*

Paula Kedy serves as the Statewide Aerospace Education Manager for the Oklahoma Department of Aerospace and Aeronautics. She promotes aviation education across Oklahoma by highlighting the importance of the AOPA Foundation High School Aviation STEM Curriculum and the "Choose Aerospace" Aircraft Maintenance Curriculum. In addition to supporting the 117 Oklahoma schools currently implementing the AOPA Foundation curriculum, she assists other states in developing frameworks for aerospace education implementation.



**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. She 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, which hosts 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 Mallett**

*Aerospace/STEM Education Outreach Coordinator, Civil Air Patrol (CAP) National Headquarters*

Susan Mallett is a retired educator with 31 years of experience as a teacher, administrator, and university instructor. As a principal, she led a nationally recognized aerospace-themed school. Since 2006, she has served as the Aerospace/STEM Educational Outreach Coordinator at the National Headquarters of the Civil Air Patrol in Montgomery, AL. She created CAP's free K-12 STEM Kit program, which has impacted over 2 million youth with kits focused on cyber, space, and aviation, including flight simulators, navigation, RC aircraft, and sUAS kits—all supporting the AOPA Foundation High School Aviation STEM Curriculum.



**Paul Maloy**

*Director of Education, Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA)*

As the director of education at EAA, Paul Maloy oversees the growth and implementation of EAA's youth aviation education programs, including the robust online resource hub AeroEducate.org, all youth-focused in-museum and regional outreach programming, and the six sessions of Air Academy summer camps. Paul's team of dedicated and professional educators are continually building new and improved youth aviation education activities and educator resources. Paul has a master's degree in secondary education and taught middle school history and debate in Utah for 16 years before joining EAA. He is a certified private pilot and currently owns a 1960 Comanche 250.



**Mike McHugh**

*Aviation Education Coordinator, North Dakota Aeronautics Commission*

Mike McHugh is the Aviation Education Coordinator for the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission. Previously, Mike was a high school aviation teacher. He holds a master's degree in Education-Instructional Design and Technology and a bachelor's degree in Aviation Management from the University of North Dakota. Mike is the vice-chairman of the ND State Board for CTE and the ND State Board for Public School Education. He also holds a Commercial Pilot's license and a Remote Pilot Certificate.



**David Meador**

*Drone/STEM Learning Specialist, Pitsco Education*

David Meador, an innovative education professional at Pitsco Education in Pittsburg, Kansas, specializes in drone curriculum and development. With a background in education and technology integration, David brings a wealth of experience creating engaging STEM programs incorporating drone technology for hands-on learning. His work at Pitsco Education focuses on developing comprehensive curriculum solutions that enhance students' understanding of drones and related technologies, fostering practical skills and knowledge that prepare students for future careers in STEM fields.



**Eric Nulton**

*Head of Lifecycle Engineering, The Applied Research Laboratory at Penn State University Board Member, Aerium*

Eric serves as the head of lifecycle engineering at the Penn State Applied Research Laboratory. He manages a team of highly skilled engineers and technicians working to develop innovative solutions to national defense-related challenges on land, in the air, and on the sea. Eric also serves on the board of directors of Aerium, a 501c3 that supports aviation education and brings BVLOS-related drone technologies to market. Eric also serves on the board of directors of Aerium, a 501c3 that supports aviation education and brings BVLOS-related drone technologies to market.



**Josh Olds**

*President, CEO, and Co-Founder, Unmanned Safety Institute*

Josh Olds serves as the President, CEO, and Co-Founder of USI®. With a diverse background in commercial and civil remotely piloted aircraft roles, he leads USI, a key partner to industry risk mitigation and management for remotely piloted operations under FAR Part 107, 91, 135, and associated waivers or exemptions. Josh holds a master's degree in aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. As a commercial multi-engine instrument-rated pilot and certified airframe & power plant mechanic, he was recognized with the 1st place honor for industry contributions at the 2018 XCELLENCE Awards by AUFSI. He received the National Business Aviation Association's 2020 Top 40 under 40 award.



**Dean Paul**

*Senior Manager of Curriculum Development, AOPA Foundation*

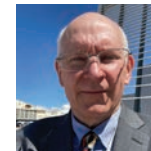
Before joining AOPA as the Senior Manager of Curriculum Development, Dean spent 31 years in education, teaching business, computers, accounting, and aviation. He holds a bachelor's and master's degree in education, as well as an Education Specialist (Ed.S.) degree in Educational Leadership. As a superintendent, he created a high school aviation program for a two-county region. Dean is a Certificated Flight Instructor and has been teaching clients to fly for the past 33 years. He owns a 1963 Cessna 172D for flight instruction and rental.



**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. Dr. 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. Dr. 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 efforts to expand the adoption and implementation of the AOPA Foundation High School Aviation STEM Curriculum. He 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. Glenn is an FAA-certificated private pilot and remote pilot. He also worked as an educational data systems consultant at both state and federal levels.



**David Purser**

*High School Science and Aviation Teacher, Karnes City High School*

David Purser teaches a 4-year aviation curriculum at Karnes City Independent School District (KCISD). He was a field tester for the AOPA Foundation High School Aviation STEM Curriculum, established a flight school at the local airport, and led a student team constructing two Van's aircraft. KCISD's Aviation Department was honored as one of the most successful aviation programs in the State of Texas in 2017. David also served on the FAA's Youth Access to American Jobs in Aviation Task Force. David teaches STEM aviation camps annually and continues local pilot training.



**Greg Roark**

*Director of STEM Education, Redbird Flight Simulations*

Greg Roark is the Director of STEM Education at Redbird Flight Simulations. He has a degree in K-12 Education and is an FAA advanced ground/instrument instructor, an instrument-rated pilot, and a motivational speaker.



**Andrew Ross**

*Region VIII Representative and Council Secretary/Treasurer, National Intercollegiate Flying Association*

Andrew resides in Elgin, IL. He competed for Southern Illinois University, Carbondale from 2005-2009 and coached at Ohio University from 2010-2011. He served as a judge since 2011 and as National SAFECON Chief Judge in 2019. Professionally, Andrew is a Boeing 787 First Officer for United Airlines. He holds an ATP and CSEL and is type-rated in the E-145, B757/767, and B787. Additional achievements and qualifications include a master's in organizational leadership, International Coaching Federation (ICF) Leadership Coach, Board-Certified Coach (BCC), and Published Author.



**Capt. Jonathan Rothe**

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

Captain Rothe is the Reserve Manpower Advisor to Headquarters Air Force Recruiting Services. He is responsible for all Reserve Military Personnel actions within headquarters. He also serves as an Advisor for Aim High Flight Academy. He has served as the Officer in Charge of Reserve Affairs for USSPACECOM and the Deputy Chief of Human Capital for the Secretary of the Air Force International Affairs. Captain Rothe enlisted in the Air Force in 2014 and was commissioned in March 2019.



**Derek Rowe**

*Aviation Program Instructor, Tullahoma High School*

With decades of aviation experience, beginning as a British Army helicopter pilot, Derek has spent his life advocating for excellence in aviation training. Founding a non-profit to expand opportunities for high school students in aviation, Derek has a proven track record of success in program development and partnership building. He's recognized as an Education Innovator in Tennessee and a national award-winner in the Harbor Freight Award for Teaching Excellence. He has been inducted into the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame.



**Kyle Sanders**

*Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, CrewConcept Drone Lab*

Kyle Sanders is an FAA Commercial Pilot and retired Air Force major and instructor pilot with a Bachelor's in Space Systems Engineering and a master's degree in education. He has served as coach of the Air Force Academy intercollegiate flying team, and the U.S. National Drone Soccer Team at the first FIDA Drone Soccer World Championship.



**Jay Sarason**

*AOPA Foundation Curriculum Teacher, Sargent High School*

Jay retired from the Colorado Division of Wildlife in 2011 and pursued his passion for aviation, obtaining a private pilot and instructor certificate. Jay took the AOPA Foundation High School Aviation STEM Curriculum to the local school board and, in 2019, was coaxed out of retirement to teach the class. Jay expands the curriculum and modifies the schedule to incorporate additional hands-on activities like aircraft construction techniques, field trips to local airports and prominent guest speakers. Weekends are usually available for students in the aviation club to come out and fly a 1946 Champ and visit the airport community.



**Brad Schwandt**

*Deputy Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Aviation*

Brad Schwandt has been an A&P mechanic since 1979 after obtaining his certificate through a vo-tech high school in St. Louis, Missouri. Brad's aviation career of 45 years includes working in general aviation, corporate aviation, and 35 years at UPS Airlines, of which the last 11 were serving as the FAA 119 Director of Maintenance and Aircraft Maintenance Operations manager. Since retiring in 2019, Brad has served as the Deputy Commissioner for the Kentucky Department of Aviation.





**Chris Sharp**

*Manager, Aviation Workforce and Education Division, Federal Aviation Administration*

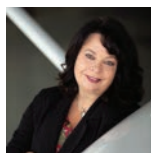
Chris Sharp oversees the FAA's efforts to introduce students of all backgrounds to aerospace careers and provide them with pathways to ensure a diverse and robust aerospace workforce of the future through the FAA's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Aviation and Space Education (STEM AVSED) Program. Previously, Chris held positions at the FAA in the Deputy Administrator's Office, the Office of Communications, and the Office of International Affairs.



**Michael Smith**

*Resource Teacher, Colonel Zadok Magruder High School*

Michael Smith has been teaching for 24 years in middle and high school in Montgomery County, Maryland. In addition to teaching the AOPA Foundation High School Aviation STEM Curriculum for the last seven years, he also teaches Project Lead The Way courses.



**Elizabeth Tennyson**

*Chief Operating Officer, AOPA*

A pilot since 1998, Tennyson has spent more than 25 years working on behalf of the general aviation community. As chief operating officer, she oversees membership, media, corporate and public relations, pilot information and medical services, You Can Fly, and the AOPA Foundation.

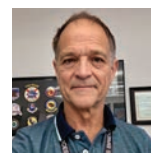
Tennyson holds an MBA from the University of Maryland and bachelors' degrees in Broadcast Journalism and International Relations from the University of Southern California. She is an instrument-rated private pilot and co-owner of a Beechcraft Bonanza.



**Brandon Turk**

*Co-founder and Community Engagement Director, Rocket Drones*

Brandon Turk is the dynamic force behind Rocket Drones as the Community Engagement Director. A self-taught professional, he's spent his career immersed in aviation, combining his passion for flying with a deep-seated commitment to transforming education. From flying airplanes and drones to working for Woz Education and the Department of Defense, Brandon has been instrumental in revolutionizing drone programs in schools, demonstrating the tangible impact of hands-on, cutting-edge learning.



**Grant Van Bavel**

*Director, Aviation Academy, Immokalee High School*

Grant began his aviation career in air/sea rescue operations as a U. S. Coast Guard Corpsman in Alaska. He retired from the FAA after 32 years in all categories of Air Traffic Control facilities, staff, and management, including FAA Headquarters. Grant has been teaching high school aviation in Immokalee, FL, for six years. His certifications include Commercial Pilot, Flight Instructor, Remote Pilot, and Control Tower Operator. He and his wife, Bev, return to Alaska every summer in their Cessna 182.



**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, Carley 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.



**Dan Weyant**

*Executive Director, Tango Flight*

Aviation is so integral to Dan Weyant's life that he lives in an airpark outside Greenville, Tennessee, with his wife Karen. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in Computer Science from North Carolina State University, he began his career as a software consultant specializing in user interface design. He left the private sector and led engineering programs in public schools in central Texas. Weyant flies an RV-9A that he and his wife built and a 1946 J-3 Cub that belonged to his grandfather. He is co-founder and Executive Director of Tango Flight.



## EXHIBITORS

### Aerium

Aerium is a philanthropic 501(c)(3) organization established to be a catalyst for change in the aviation sector, focusing on education, workforce development, and creating career opportunities for students in Pennsylvania. [aerium.org](http://aerium.org)

### Aerospace Center for Excellence

The Aerospace Center for Excellence (ACE) is a 14-building aerospace STEM facility located on the SUN 'n FUN Expo Campus. Anchored by the Central Florida Aerospace Academy and Florida Air Museum, ACE boasts an impressive array of STEM learning environments. Aerospace-themed summer camps and student outreach programs are presented by ACE staff to over 30,000 students annually, and educator assistance programs provide STEM-based curriculum and lesson plans for teachers at all grade levels. [aceedu.org](http://aceedu.org)

### AMBA

AMBA has a storied history of serving retired public employees and educators, alumni groups, and professional organizations through tailored insurance and benefits solutions. Evolving from a single-client service, AMBA now serves more than 400 associations, helping them grow and serve their members while providing affordable and comprehensive supplemental benefits to millions of families and individuals. [getamba.com/index.php](http://getamba.com/index.php)

### Auburn University School of Aviation

Auburn University began teaching aviation courses in the 1920s. The university bought the KAUO Airport to participate in the Civilian Pilot Training Program, which has grown into one of the longest continually operated flight programs in the nation. With an eye to the future in preparing aviation leaders that will shape the next century of flight, Auburn University School of Aviation offers two degrees, Aviation Management and Professional Flight. [cla.auburn.edu/aviation](http://cla.auburn.edu/aviation)

### Aviation Supplies & Academics, Inc. (ASA)

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)

### ByteSpeed

ByteSpeed has been a leading IT solutions resource for schools since 1999. ByteSpeed provides STEM focused solutions for flight simulation, esports, and virtual reality in addition to enterprise-networking solutions and professional IT services in all 50 states across the nation. [bytespeed.com](http://bytespeed.com)

### California Aeronautical University

California Aeronautical University (CAU) is committed to supporting our nation's teachers navigate the unique world of aviation education and career pathways. We're dedicated to providing the resources to help educators understand aviation curriculum and industry terminology, empowering them to inspire and guide their students toward exploring aviation career opportunities. CAU is also happy to provide continuing education credits to K-12 teachers who have completed the AOPA Foundation Curriculum teacher training, offering significant benefits to educators dedicated to aviation awareness. [calaero.edu](http://calaero.edu)

### Choose Aerospace

The Choose Aerospace aviation maintenance curriculum is a resource for A&P schools to build student pipelines in their communities. The computer-based content covers the general subject areas in the mechanic airman certification standards and is intended to support dual enrollment and credit-bearing opportunities for high school students matriculating into a post-secondary part 147 program. [chooseaerospace.org](http://chooseaerospace.org)

### Civil Air Patrol

The Civil Air Patrol is a federally chartered non-profit corporation that is also the Air Force auxiliary. CAP's mission is supporting America's communities with emergency response, diverse aviation and ground services, youth development and promotion of air, space and cyber power through aerospace education. [gawg.cap.gov](http://gawg.cap.gov)

### Community College of Beaver County

Community College of Beaver County's (CCBC) James M. Johnson School of Aviation is the place to find exceptionally trained aviation professionals. With a reputation for high quality and high standards, our associate degree and high school pathways put air-traffic controllers in every FAA-operated tower and pilots in cockpits of every major airline nationwide. Entering our 55th year of professional pilot training and 48th year of air traffic control education, CCBC's expanded offerings and premier partnerships will fuel the aviation industry's future. [ccbc.edu](http://ccbc.edu)

### CrewConcept Inc.

Today, the industry faces an ongoing labor crisis and shortage of pilots, mechanics, and technicians. We want to build aviation pathways into school districts that provide access to high-paying professions. Our mission is to train aviation ready students and develop the future aerospace workforce. We engage communities and economic development funding sources to address gaps in retention of at-risk, minority, and women students entering in technical careers. The Drone Soccer Academy is a gamified career skills development program and classroom management system. These modular lessons and activities can be implemented as a standalone camp, classroom unit, or modification to complement existing courses. [crewconcept.co](http://crewconcept.co)

### Embraer

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](http://embraerfoundation.org)

### Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

As a global leader in aviation and aerospace, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University offers cutting-edge programs in aviation, business, engineering, security, technology and beyond. With campuses in Florida and Arizona, and a Worldwide / Online Campus that allows you the flexibility to study anywhere, we provide hands-on learning and research opportunities to prepare students to excel after graduation. [erau.edu](http://erau.edu)

### Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA)

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](http://eaa.org)

### Flight Sim Wings

Flight Sim Wings (FSW) is committed to providing high-fidelity and robust flight simulation hardware for the STEM aviation education market and for the flight sim market. The hardware—with analog, glass, and hybrid instrumentation panels—use standard game controller technology and are compatible with major flight simulation software. Ask about our unique “swappable” panels. FSW also provides turnkey devices that include all hardware and software. FSW looks forward to working with you and your school or district! [flightsimwings.com](http://flightsimwings.com)

### Gleim Aviation

In 1980, Dr. Gleim began self-publishing pilot training books. Gleim has helped pilots and aviation maintenance technicians pass millions of FAA exams with our unique Knowledge Transfer System, textbooks, online courses, flight simulation devices, and professional development courses. Gleim also provides STEM aviation education resources to teachers that are used in schools around the country. The Gleim BATD is a premier FAA-approved training device designed by flight instructors to help learners practice flows, procedures, and instrument flying. [gleimaviation.com](http://gleimaviation.com)

### JSfirm.com

JSfirm.com continues to be the fastest-growing aviation job board with resume database access and has exclusively served the aviation industry for 20 years. It is a free service for job seekers and a fantastic place for aviation companies to advertise jobs and search resumes. [jsfirm.com](http://jsfirm.com)

### LIFT Academy

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](http://flywithlift.com)

### National Association of States Officials (NASAO)

NASAO is dedicated to representing the interests of the states and the public before policymakers at the federal level. A safe, secure, efficient and well-funded aviation system is a powerful economic engine for growth and job creation across the nation. NASAO is the only organization deeply invested in representing the public interest in all facets of aviation and airports. The United States has developed the largest, safest and most complete aviation system in the world. All Americans reap the significant benefits of this unique and unparalleled transportation, shipping, emergency response and defense network. [nasao.org](http://nasao.org)

### Navispire

Navispire empowers educators with engaging STEM education resources, inspiring the next generation of innovators. Powered by California Aeronautical University, we strive to make complex subjects easy to understand, helping educators navigate their STEM curriculum with confidence. Plus, with our one-stop-shop STEM resource kits, educators will be equipped in their classrooms with the tools needed to bridge the gap between lessons and learning. Visit our booth to discover how we can support you in inspiring students to reach new heights in their STEM journeys! [navispire.org](http://navispire.org)

### Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals (OBAP)

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](http://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](http://pitsco.com)

### Purdue Global

Explore an education alliance with Purdue Global, providing an accelerated pathway for your graduates to complete their bachelor’s in aviation management or professional flight within 2 - 3 years while saving up to \$28,400. Flight training is conducted through partners in 120 cities and courses are 100% online. Our aviation programs have been developed in collaboration with Purdue University’s renowned School of Aviation and Transportation Technology. [purdueforlife.org](http://purdueforlife.org)

### Redbird Flight Simulations

Redbird Flight was established in 2006 to make aviation more accessible through modern technology and careful engineering. Since its inception, the company has delivered innovative, reliable, and high-quality training devices, applications, and content to flight schools, colleges, universities, K-12 schools, and individual pilots and aviation enthusiasts worldwide. With more than 3,000 devices in service globally, Redbird has quickly become the fastest growing and most innovative provider of flight training technology in the industry. [redbirdflight.com](http://redbirdflight.com)

### Rexair Professional Pilot Academy

Rexair Professional Pilot Academy offers an accelerated, highly personalized flight training program that will take students from zero time in the cockpit to a commercial pilot position in 8 months. [rexair.net/about-airline-pilot-academy](http://rexair.net/about-airline-pilot-academy)

### Rocket Drones

Founded by drone industry professionals who bring unparalleled knowledge and insights into our comprehensive drone curriculum and training programs. By bridging the gap between classroom learning and real-world applications, Rocket Drones empowers the next generation of drone professionals to reach new heights in this rapidly growing industry. [rocketdrones.com](http://rocketdrones.com)

### Simbird by Montauk Systems

We are committed to training future pilots! Manufacturer of rugged, dependable Basic Aviation Training Devices (BATDs) and Advanced Aviation Training Devices (AATDs) that are FAA-approved for flight training in your classroom. Simbirds are designed for both individual practice and instructor-led sessions. We pride ourselves on having the highest quality components and industry-leading software. Montauk Systems' customer service is exceptional—our clients become our family, and we are devoted to seeing them succeed. [simbird.net](http://simbird.net)

### Southwest Airlines

Southwest Airlines is one of the world's most admired airlines, offering one-of-a-kind Hospitality. Southwest provides friendly, reliable, and low-cost air travel and carries more air travelers flying nonstop within the United States than any other airline. Famous for an employee-first corporate culture, Southwest has a record of no involuntary furloughs or layoffs in its history. [swa.is/aopa2024](http://swa.is/aopa2024)

### Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology

Established in 1928, Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology has trained over 100,000 pilots and technicians. We have campuses located in the following areas: Tulsa, OK; Los Angeles, CA; Inland Empire, CA; and Denver, CO. Spartan students have come from across the United States and over 40 countries. Spartan College has been training professionals for aviation and related industries. We provide a supportive educational environment that encourages active participation in learning while providing quality career-oriented education programs. [spartan.edu](http://spartan.edu)

### STEM Flights

STEM Flights is a national nonprofit organization offering free flight experiences for middle and high school students. Local volunteer Pilot Mentors are connected with students in your community to learn about aviation and aerospace careers. After the flight, students receive additional mentoring and support to continue their aviation journey. [stemflights.org](http://stemflights.org)

### Superior Flight School

We are a nationally recognized flight academy located in sunny Kennesaw, Georgia, offering both Part 141 and 61 FAA-approved courses for U.S. students planning careers as professional airline pilots or wishing to become recreational pilots. Our Fleet consists of 10+ Cessna 172SPs as well as 2 DA42NG Twinstars, both outfitted with the G1000 Glass Avionics package. [superiorflightschool.com](http://superiorflightschool.com)

### Tango Flight

Tango Flight - An Educational Non-Profit that delivers an aviation curriculum to public high schools. As part of the curriculum, students build an actual airplane (RV-12iS) in school. [tangoflight.com](http://tangoflight.com)

### True Course Simulations

TCS provides immersive training through world-class instruction combined with virtual reality (VR). Our VR flight simulators and intuitive courseware train and monitor the student with a virtual instructor. We offer a desktop VR simulator up to a motion VR Immersive Training Device. At the U.S. Air Force Academy and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, we've shown that anyone can set students up for success. [tcsims.com](http://tcsims.com)

### United States Air Force

Mission: Inform, Influence, & Inspire the next generation of diverse aviators and leaders for our Air Force. Vision: To reignite and invigorate childhood ambitions and dreams for careers in aviation, fostering a renewed sense of passion and excitement across all communities. [recruiting.af.mil/Aim-High-Flight-Academy](http://recruiting.af.mil/Aim-High-Flight-Academy)

### United States Air Force Academy

At the USAF Academy, we become leaders, innovators, warriors, and wingmen, ready to serve in the world's greatest air and space forces. As a public university and a military academy, we are leading the way into an increasingly complex future, driving advancement and innovation in air, space, and cyberspace, among countless other fields. Whether you come to Colorado Springs for the world-class education, military training, Division I athletics, or character-building challenge and adventure, one thing is certain, the Academy experience is unlike any other. [usafa.edu](http://usafa.edu)

### United States Army Aviation Warrant Officer Flight Training

United States Army Aviation Warrant Officer Flight Training (aka High School to Flight School) is a program for civilians to become US Army Warrant Officer Aviators. This highly competitive accessions program targets civilians ages 18-32 with no prior aviation experience or college education requirements. Selected individuals will contract for MOS 153A, complete basic combat training and Warrant Officer Candidate School, and ultimately advanced airframe qualification in a rotary wing or fixed wing aircraft. Fly Army! [recruiting.army.mil/ISO/AWOR/Civilian\\_WOFT](http://recruiting.army.mil/ISO/AWOR/Civilian_WOFT)

### University Aviation Association

To promote and foster excellence in collegiate aviation education by providing a forum for students, faculty, staff, and practitioners to share ideas, to enhance the quality of education, and to develop stronger programs and curricula. To influence aviation education policy at all governmental levels. To provide and nurture the linkage between college aviation education, the aviation industry, and government agencies. [uaa.aero](http://uaa.aero)

### University of North Dakota

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](http://aero.und.edu)

### Unmanned Safety Institute (USI)

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](http://flyusi.com)

### US Aviation Academy

The Academy is a world-class aviation training center that offers Professional Pilot, Aircraft Technician, and Aircraft Dispatcher Training with pathways to Major Airlines such as Delta, United, and Southwest Airlines. [usaviationacademy.com](http://usaviationacademy.com)

### U.S. Space & Rocket Center

The U.S. Space & Rocket Center, home of Space Camp, is also home to Aviation Challenge, an immersive, five-day residential camp that brings together principles of aviation, leadership development, and career pathways in aviation. Students hone communication and critical-thinking skills as they take part in simulated flight missions, learn basic water-and-land-survival skills, and explore career interests during the camp by engaging with professionals. [rocketcenter.com](http://rocketcenter.com)

### Western Michigan University College of Aviation

The 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/aviation](http://wmich.edu/aviation)

### Women in Aviation International (WAI)

With more than 20,000 members in 120 countries, Women in Aviation International (WAI) is the largest organization in the world dedicated to increasing the number of women involved in all areas of aviation and aerospace. Our Aviation for Girls youth program includes free WAI Junior membership, the AFG app, AFG magazine, Girls in Aviation Day, monthly virtual webinars, and more. There are hands-on lessons, group work activities, and role model stories to encourage and inspire learners to pursue their dreams. [wai.org](http://wai.org)

### Wright State University

Wright State University, named for the Wright brothers, is a national public university in Dayton, Ohio. Dayton is the home of powered aviation, and Wright State is carrying on its namesake's spirit of innovation and excellence in flight through its Aviation Science and Technology BS degree program. In partnership with First Flight Aviation, a Part 141 FAA-approved flight school, the program provides students with the first-class education and training necessary for them to realize their goal of becoming professional pilots. [wright.edu/request-info/aviation](http://wright.edu/request-info/aviation)

# RISE ABOVE WHAT YOU THINK IS POSSIBLE

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.

**Learn more at [airforce.com](http://airforce.com).**



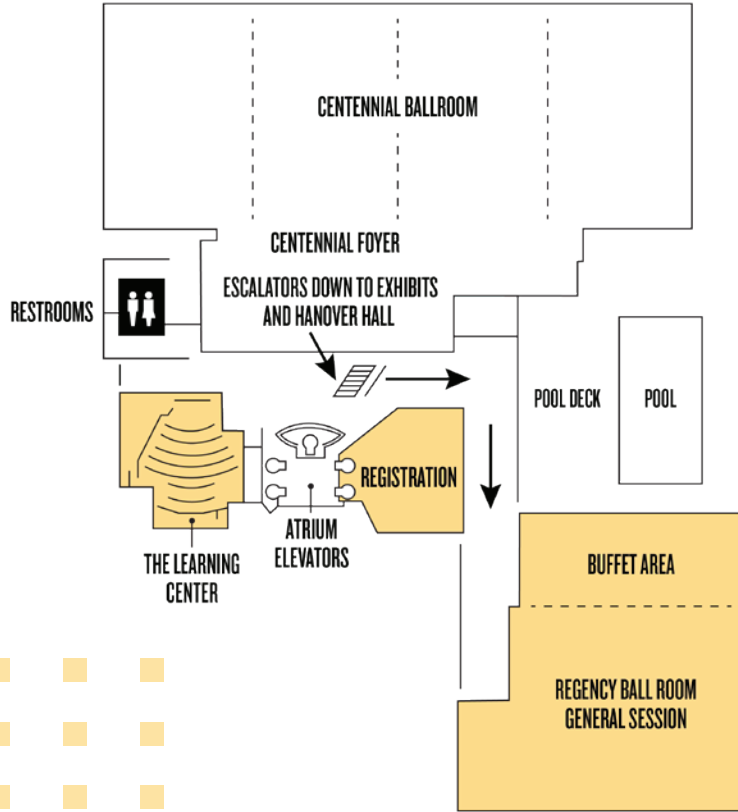
U.S. AIR FORCE



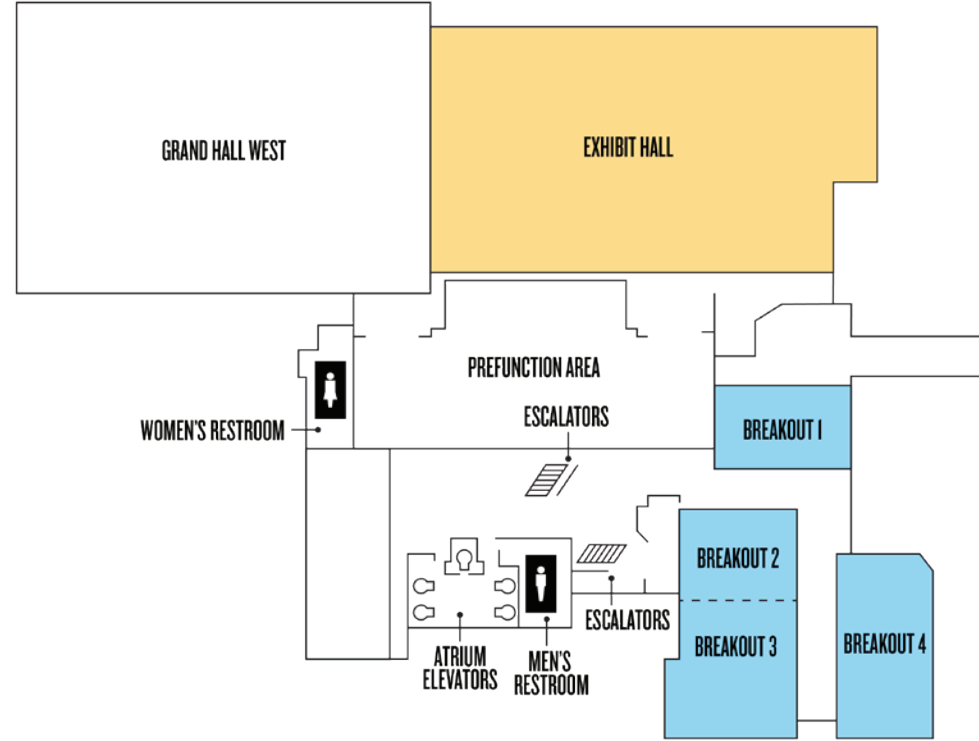
# SYMPOSIUM MAP

**Hyatt Regency Atlanta**  
265 Peachtree St NE | Atlanta, GA

## BALLROOM LEVEL



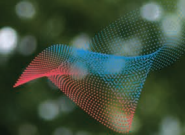
## EXHIBIT LEVEL



Handwriting practice area on page 43, consisting of 20 horizontal dotted lines.

Handwriting practice area on page 44, consisting of 20 horizontal dotted lines.

Handwriting practice area with 24 horizontal dotted lines.



**EMBRAER**  
Foundation

# HELPING DREAMS TAKE FLIGHT







# REACH FOR THE SKIES

Committed to supporting early STEM learning and training for future aerospace professionals.

Boeing is proud to sponsor the 2024 AOPA Foundation High School Aviation STEM Symposium.

[boeing.com](https://www.boeing.com)

Scan to  
learn more

