

December 12, 2017

Office of Aeronautics
SD Department of Transportation
700 E Broadway Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: 2018 Aerospace Career and Education Camp

Dear Chairman Odenbach:

The ongoing support from the Office of Aeronautics for the Aerospace Career and Education (ACE) Camp is greatly appreciated. We would like to once again thank the SD Aeronautics Commission for their efforts to promote aviation and encourage students to pursue majors in aviation, engineering, and aerospace studies.

As you can see, the SD Aeronautics Commission is one of the primary sponsors for the camp and the campers benefit from additional funds by our generous benefactors, without which the camp would be too costly for many students to attend. We would not be able to support the camp without the help of the commission and for that we thank you!

It seems like year after year we are tasked to do more with less and this year was no different, however we tried hard this last year trim our budget and create a sustainable program using additional resources throughout the state. We have identified and applied for additional funding which allows us to ask the Commission for the same level of support that we have asked for the last five years- \$5,000.

Many positive outcomes and relationships have been built through the years because of ACE camp. We had 19 registered and 17 students in camp last year and expect about 30 students for next year. While not every student uses the camp as a bridge to a career in the aviation industry, we feel it opens their eyes to the very important part that aviation places in South Dakota and equips them to provide a positive light on the industry.

The money provided by the Aeronautics Commission ensures that the tuition for the camp remains within reach for students attending camp. We have been able over the last three years to judiciously plan for camp expenses and even though camp costs increased, we have been able to do more with less and will continue to maximize any resources we receive.

On behalf of ACE Camp, I ask the SD Aeronautics Commission to consider a sponsorship of \$5,000 to help provide camp oversight, transportation while at camp, activities, and food for the campers for ACE Camp 2017, which is tentatively scheduled for July 8th through the 11th, 2018.

Again, we thank you for your ongoing support and hope for its continuation. If you would like any additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Cody Christensen
ACE Camp 2018 coordinator
South Dakota State University

Final Report for 2017 ACE Camp

July 18th, 2017

RE: 2017 Aerospace Career and Education Camp

We would like to once again thank you for your contributions to ACE Camp 2017. We had a very successful year with many happy (and tired) campers! There is no doubt this camp promotes aviation and encourages students to pursue majors in aviation, engineering, and aerospace studies.

We would not be able to support the camp without your help and for that we are grateful! We have many great sponsors that help make ACE Camp possible and to help facilitate all the different reporting requirements, we thought it would be best to include it in one report so that all our wonderful sponsors and stakeholders have access to our information and can answer to their constituents.

Many positive outcomes and relationships have been built through the years because of ACE camp. We had 19 students signed up for camp and ended up with 17 students from seven states. We were able to award scholarships to all students who qualified, which is a feat in itself! While not every student uses the camp as a bridge to a career in the aviation industry, we feel it opens their eyes to the very important part that aviation places in South Dakota and equips them to provide a positive light on the industry. This year we also had a fun surprise in that two of our guest speakers were previous ACE Campers themselves, so it was great to see the full circle this camp has on the state of South Dakota.

ACE Camp 2017 was only four days long however we used almost every waking hour to maximize our time. Campers flew airplanes, built multiple rockets of different sizes, visited Lake Area Tech, talked to aviation professionals, studied aerodynamic principles, flew a single engine flight simulator, interacted with UAS's and model aircraft builders, and spent time enjoying the full camp experience. We watched some aerospace related movies, played some games, had a pool party, and usually stayed up a little too late talking through the day's activities. The last night of camp we had some great quality time as we waited in the basement for a tornado warning to pass, but all in all camp went well.

This year we had four aviation students help as counselors and brought in an elementary teacher and a high school teacher to help facilitate some of the camp. This was beneficial not only for the students but also for the teachers as they were able to learn a little bit more about some STEM activities and see some lesson plans in action during the process. Two of our campers are enrolling in the SDSU Aviation Program, partially because of this camp.

Again, we thank you for your ongoing support of ACE Camp and plan we are already starting to plan for ACE Camp 2018, which is tentatively scheduled for July 8th-11th, 2018. If you would like any additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Cody Christensen
ACE Camp 2017 coordinator
South Dakota State University

2017 ACE Camp Budget (Estimated)		
Item	Expense	Income
Salary *	\$9,343	
Meals	\$1,553	
Housing	\$1,186	
Activities/supplies*	\$4,115	
Transportation*	\$474	
Camp sponsorships		
South Dakota Aeronautics Grant		\$5,000
SD Space Grant*		\$4,300
SD Space Grant- Dalsted Teacher Grant*		\$1,000
Tuition (\$5,950)		
Student paid tuition		\$3,300
South Dakota Pilots Association		\$1,000
Yankton Regional Aviation Association		\$600
Kevin Dalsted Memorial Fund		\$1,050
Total	\$16,671	\$16,250
Difference		
Average cost per camper	\$981	

*Estimated since some expenses and income do not get billed/deposited until months after the camp is complete.

All expenses/income not shown such as in-kind donations, time of individuals outside of camp, and some camp oversight paid for by outside entities. Additional sponsorship provided by the SD Space Grant for promotion through the SDSU Mobile Simulator throughout the state was not included in this expense breakdown.

	Frequency	Percent
Campers		
Male	11	65%
Female	6	35%
Total		100%
Ethnicity		
Caucasian	15	82%
Native American	2	12%
No response	1	6%
Reduced or free lunch qualified	2	12%
Scholarships		
Number applied	12	71%
Number awarded	12	100%
Home State		
South Dakota	6	35%
Minnesota	5	30%
Iowa	2	12%
Nebraska	1	6%
Pennsylvania	1	6%
Michigan	1	6%
Wisconsin	1	6%
Counselors		
Male	4	57%
Female	3	43%
Total Counselors	7	100%
Additional workers/volunteers		
Male	21	91%
Female	2	9%
Total volunteers	23	100%

On a scale of 1 (poor) to 10 (excellent) overall rate ACE Camp 2017:

Average: 9.05

Min: 7

Max:10

All students have waivers to use their image for promotional activities. I attached some pictures as well as some statements from the campers below. We have more pictures from camp available on our Facebook site, just search: @SouthDakotaAceCamp

Statements from ACE Campers:

“This camp was great all around.”

“There are more jobs in aviation that just being a pilot.”

“Experiencing zero g’s and two g’s in the plane.”

“There are many options as far as jobs in the aviation field and all the different paths.”

“10 out of 10 would do it again- was awesome.”

“Meeting new people which all have the same common interests.”

“This is an amazing camp.”

“My favorite part was the stress and excitement of being in control of the plane and being so high up.”

“To save money and not do dumb stuff.”

“I absolutely loved flying an airplane by myself.”

“I don’t absolutely have to be a pilot and there are other careers in the aviation industry.”





