



**Minnesota**  
STATE COLLEGES  
& UNIVERSITIES

INSTITUTION

PROJECT/REQUEST

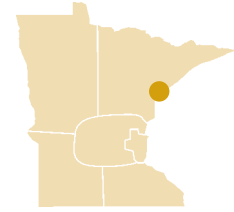
LOCATION

## Lake Superior College

Duluth

Minnesota Center for  
Advanced Aviation

\$2,500,000



### Project at a Glance

- Prepare a highly skilled workforce for positions in the small aircraft general aviation industry
- Support the small craft aviation industry's workforce needs related to private and sport flying, aerial photography and surveying, crop dusting, corporate business flying, medical evacuation, flight training, air taxi, and the police and fire fighting uses of aircraft
- Develop new credit-based customized training courses, certificates and degrees based on industry needs in the areas of airframe and power mechanics, professional small aircraft pilot, aerospace avionics, aviation management and aviation machining/fabrication
- Located at the Duluth International Airport, the Minnesota Center for Advanced Aviation will be a hands-on and theory-based education program in partnership with local aviation industries

### Project Description

With an emphasis on establishing a highly trained and available workforce, the Minnesota Center for

Advanced Aviation at Lake Superior College will provide a comprehensive academic approach to meeting the needs of the aviation industry with a specific focus on technologically advanced aircraft. The center will be located five miles from the college at the Duluth International Airport, which offers a wide array of state-of-the-art aviation services to air travelers and flight crews. The Duluth Federal Aviation Administration Air Traffic Control facility provides 24-hour service and air traffic control.

Students will learn the skills needed to manufacture, maintain, manage and trouble-shoot the technology of small and medium-sized planes used in the aerospace industry. The skills learned also will apply to the commercial aviation industry.

General aviation, representing all aviation except scheduled flights and military aviation, is an industry seeing strong growth even though the commercial airline industry continues to struggle. General aviation makes up 96 percent of all U.S. aircraft and 60 percent of U.S. flight hours. More than ever, businesses and local communities are relying on



*The general aviation industry would be supported by programs at a new Minnesota Center for Advanced Aviation at Lake Superior College in Duluth.*

aviation to meet their transportation needs.

Education and training are needed to meet the growing demand for employees in this fast-paced, fast-changing niche of transportation. General aviation aircraft log more than 27 million hours of air time and carry 166 million passengers annually. Advancements in aircraft design and manufacturing technology include integrated electronics systems, composite materials and new cockpit designs.

General aviation employs 1.3 million people, generates about 1 percent of the total wealth of this country and

produces technology that keeps America on the leading edge of the industry. Businesses throughout the United States depend on general aviation to improve their productivity and efficiency.

Since 1994, activity statistics from the FAA indicate an increase in general aviation activity at FAA air traffic facilities, an increase in the number of active general aviation aircraft, and record shipments and billings for fixed-wing aviation aircraft.

These recent positive trends in the general aviation industry are anticipated to continue into the future due

to a number of factors, including the construction of new aircraft manufacturing facilities and expansion of existing manufacturing facilities, increased spending on research, and development of aircraft and avionics intended to make flying safer and easier to learn.

### **Participating Institution:**

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### **Project Partnerships**

#### **Cirrus Design, Inc.**

“I am pleased to see Lake Superior College address the need to implement an aviation curriculum that will encompass the type of cutting-edge technologies and training that is essential to the aerospace industry and its supporting businesses.”

Alan Klapmeier,  
CEO of Cirrus Design

#### **Northstar Aerospace**

“Being able to hire highly trained workers, based upon our growing needs, is critical for the industry. LSC is an excellent college to provide this advanced training.”

John Eagleton,  
President of  
Northstar Aerospace

#### **Monaco Air Duluth**

#### **National Guard Air Base**

#### **FedEx**

#### **Empower MX**



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