

Contact: Melanie Friscoe
P: (877) 359-7222
E: Melanie@beaconamc.net



SOUTH CAROLINA
AVIATION
ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport teams with Spartanburg Science Center to train the state's next generation of aerospace workers

Spartanburg, S.C. – Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport and Spartanburg Science Center have partnered to create a unique solution to the Upstate Work Force Development issue, offering six local learners the opportunity to fully explore careers in the aviation industry.

What began with a desire to experience simulated flight turned into the first-of-its-kind-in-South-Carolina Spartanburg Community Aviation Program, where selected students have spent Sundays since June 2 at the general aviation airport. There, they are learning with the civil air patrol about careers in the U.S. Air Force; experiencing a flight simulator; experiencing an instructional glider flight; attending an FAA safety meeting; refueling and servicing aircraft; being an aviation mechanic for a day; and flying a powered flight.

The airport, owned by the city of Spartanburg, is administering this program for free. Instructors for each session volunteer their time. “Partnering with Spartanburg Science Center to bring the value of the aviation industry to area students for no fee is exciting,” said Airport Director Terry Connorton. “The instructors are passionate about what they do. There is no better environment for the next generation of the aviation industry workforce to learn in than one with engaged and enthusiastic teachers.”

Two sessions remain in the program, which will culminate in the students presenting their experiences during the airport’s Aviation Week showcase on Aug. 22. In addition to celebrating the Spartanburg Community Aviation Program, the showcase will highlight the airport’s \$30 million runway expansion project that allows the airport to serve the Upstate and its major manufacturers.

South Carolina Aviation Week is a statewide celebration of the economic and educational impact of airports and the aviation industry. Celebrated Aug. 18 – 24, 2019, and centered around National Aviation Day on Aug. 19, Aviation Week is planned in partnership by South Carolina Aviation Association (SCAA) and South Carolina Aeronautics Commission.

The Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport is the city’s largest owned asset and is located in the southwest section of the city off Ammons Road. Staffed by eight full-time and one part-time employee, the airport serves over 100 local aircraft and 5,000 general aviation airports throughout the United States, as well as corporate jets representing many of Spartanburg’s largest companies. For more information, please visit **www.cityofspartanburg.org/airport**.

South Carolina Aviation Association actively promotes and encourages aviation and airport development to meet air transportation needs and assist the state in achieving economic development goals. Its membership is comprised of airports and aviators across South Carolina, as well as aviation industry partners. For more information, please visit **scaonline.com**.

###