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Tiffania Ham-Fayall
Director / CIO
Lowcountry Aerospace Academy (LCAA)

Melanie Friscoe
Account Executive
South Carolina Aeronautics Association (SCAA)

PRESS RELEASE: Youth Aviation Camp – LCAA LIFT Camp, April 20th (9am – 3pm), Berkeley County Airport (Moncks Corner, SC)

YOUTH CAMP TO KICK OFF SOUTH CAROLINA'S AVIATION WEEK!

Local Non-Profit to Provide Free Flight Instruction to Area High School Students

[Moncks Corner, SC, April 20] – The Lowcountry Aerospace Academy (LCAA) will host 16 area high school students at Berkeley County Airport for free ground, simulator and flight instruction with Carolina Sky Flight Training. Instruction will include FAA-certified flight instructor ground and flight training, and students are provided with a lunch, t-shirts and their first logbook. Camp students are eligible to apply for flight training scholarships to continue their aerospace adventure.

The LCAA is a not-for-profit (501c3) educational charity whose mission is to “Educate, inspire and empower diverse junior, high school and college students through formalized aviation, aeronautical and STEM education, professional aviation training, and special events.” Each month of the school year, the LCAA hosts their “Lowcountry Inspirational Flight Training” (LIFT) camps for 16 local students drawn from in-school junior ROTC, technical and academic programs, as well as through the Walterboro Tuskegee Airman and Charleston Women in Aviation chapters and other community organizations. “We are changing these young students’ lives through our programs. Many of our students lack the access and resources to pursue their dreams, and don’t think that careers in aviation or aerospace are for them,” states Lonnie Ford, retired U.S. Air Force officer and LCAA President, “but through our LIFT camp and other events we give them a new perspective about the world, their role in it and the opportunities that are there for them if they’re willing to dream big and work hard.”

Students are nominated by their organization’s leadership, and compete for scholarships to continue their flight training. Recently, the LCAA has partnered with Republic Airways’ LIFT Academy in Myrtle Beach, SC to provide scholarships that allow students to complete their FAA Private Pilot certification.



Lt. Col. Ford continued, “Our LIFT camps are just the first step for our students, and through continued mentoring, advice and resources made available to them through our community partnerships, we ensure they have the opportunity and resources to pursue their dreams.”

In addition to flight training opportunities, LCAA students are introduced to aviation maintenance, airfield management and small unmanned aerial systems (drone) operations. Students interested in fields other than aviation are provided additional opportunities to visit with local schools and businesses. Since 2018, the LCAA has flown more than 700 area students and provided more than \$60,000 in scholarships. Graduates from the LCAA’s programs include students at The Citadel, Charleston Southern University, Trident Technical College, Tuskegee University, the U.S. Air Force Academy, enlistees into our nation’s armed services and many who are leading successful careers in the Lowcountry’s business and schools.

The LCAA is entirely volunteer-run, and relies upon funds from individual donors, local area partners like Boeing, LIFT Academy and support from the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission to fund their camps and events. You can follow the Lowcountry Aerospace Academy and make donations via Facebook and Instagram, and may reach them directly at LowcountryFlying@gmail.com.