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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Momentum Building to make the Southern Alleghenies an Aviation Hotbed

New organization dedicated to cultivating the aviation pipeline uses Career and Technical Education Month to announce conference and trade show

Johnstown, PA. (February 2, 2023) February is National Career and Technology Education Month, and Aerium wants area school districts to be aware of new pathways for students interested in aviation and maintenance.

Aerium, a newly established non-profit organization, was formed with the express purpose to cultivate the pipeline between students, educational institutions and the aviation industry. The effort has roots in a multi-year collaboration between Dr. Larry Nulton, Nulton Aviation Services, Saint Francis University, the John Murtha Johnstown-Cambria County Airport, local defense leaders, and area elected officials to unlock the potential for the Southern Alleghenies region to become a hotbed of aviation industry talent.

The organization plans to use their inaugural conference and trade show, which kicks off on May 30th, to provide immersive context to students interested in aviation, aeronautics, drone operation, defense and related maintenance careers. The event will include hands-on activities for prospective students, simulators, intro level training, introduction to various company leaders, and presentation of employment opportunities that would be available to them through various certifications.

“At this event, school administrators, students, and industry stakeholders will get a first hand look at the aviation and associated maintenance career pathway resources that are now available through the outstanding work of our partner organizations,” said Dr. Larry Nulton, Aerium Chairman. “We want school administrators and counselors to see our vision of creating a next generation hub of aviation professionals right here in our backyard.”

“Thanks to this collaboration, the capabilities of our aviation program have been rapidly expanding, and the Aerium Summit will give us the chance to demonstrate this to teachers and

students," said Brother Marius Strom, Director of the Center for Aviation Maintenance and Education at Saint Francis University. "Last month SkyWest Airlines donated a CRJ200 airframe to the Center, which will give us even more ability to provide our students with invaluable hands-on training."

"It's no secret that the aviation industry is facing enormous workforce challenges. A retirement wave was already starting to form with pilots and technicians and then came the pandemic which made matters even worse. We need more groups and events like these." said Anthony McCloskey, PennDOT's Bureau of Aviation Director.

If you would like more information about the conference go to AeriumSummit.org or call Aerium at 412.592.7061.