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Dear Members of the Aviation Community:

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As chairman of the board, I am honored to announce the Inaugural Aerium Summit! This conference and trade show is designed to serve several purposes. First and foremost, we have placed a priority on providing guidance, connections, and real world context to high school students interested in careers in aviation, aeronautics, drone operation, defense and related maintenance careers. At this event, school administrators, students, and industry stakeholders will get a first hand look at the incredible aviation and associated maintenance career pathway resources that are now available through the outstanding work of our partner organizations.

If you are a student, come to this event and see that deep learning and having fun are not mutually exclusive. We welcome you to experience the simulators, fly the drones, and see why these fields may be suited for you.

If you are an educator, come and interact with curriculum leaders and get advice on how to prepare your students to become part of the aviation talent pipeline. Many of our sessions will have “train the trainer” components to them.

If you are a company looking to expand operations, come and see presentations and exhibits pertaining to the Mid-Atlantic Opportunity Park, which will feature a state-of-the-art 100,000 square foot maintenance repair and overhaul (MRO) facility. The Opportunity Park is located in a low cost-high yield area within 500 nautical miles of the nation’s largest population clusters. We are in close proximity to award winning universities and top level school-districts.

We also welcome leaders from other locations to see the collaborative model that led us to this event. Thanks to years of partnership between industry, academic institutions and elected officials, in tandem with an existing and thriving defense industry, the Southern Alleghenies region is well on its way to becoming a hotbed of aviation, drones and maintenance activity. We also feel our partnership can take a bite out of the workforce challenges that baby-boom retirements and the pandemic have presented to the industry. We wholeheartedly believe there is a case study that can be duplicated in other areas, and want to share it with this audience.

Finally, we are excited by the robust lineup of leading industry, education and high level policymakers giving their time and energy to this great cause.

Dr. Larry Nulton
Aerium Chairman