



February 25, 2010

The Honorable Richard Lugar  
306 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-4814

Dear Senator Lugar,

Vincennes University (VU) wishes to submit a formal request for funding to support the Aviation Flight Technology Program in Indianapolis.

The purpose of VU's request is to purchase flight simulators for Aviation Flight Technology students and faculty that will provide advanced training and retraining for new, incumbent, and displaced pilots and technicians. VU's request includes simulators that implement the use of glass panels, enabling students to gain skills using the same types of advanced technologies that are currently being used within the aviation industry.

Simulator training and education is widely used within the industry as it challenges pilots with a variety of system failures, weather related issues, and cockpit demands that may occur on the job. It also allows pilots to better prepare to save lives in the event of a critical malfunction or emergency situation. VU has effectively used simulation training to instruct student pilots in the past and has a significant need to update the simulators and curricula used by professors to create well-trained pilots and aviation technicians.

VU maintains strong connections and partnerships with regional aviation industries and training programs, including Purdue University, the Indiana Aerospace Jr./Sr. High School, the Decatur Township Challenger Learning Center, and companies such as FedEx, Republic Airways, and Rolls Royce. With the capacity to offer advanced flight and jet maintenance simulation training, VU's partnerships can expand as regional businesses continue to seek skill-based training for the next generation of pilots.

VU offers nationally-known programming for aviation, including an Associate of Science in Aviation Flight Technology, Associate of Science in Aviation Flight Technology-Airway Science Option, and a Bachelor of Science in Technology. These graduates have nearly 100% job placement within the aviation industry as private pilots and flight instructors. Additionally, VU's accelerated flight programs are among the few that are fully-licensed under Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Part 141.

I am pleased to endorse this request as it supports the mission and vision of the institution. I kindly ask for your consideration in allowing Vincennes University, Indiana's first college, the opportunity to remain at the forefront of academic programming and training opportunities that support the Hoosier aviation industry.

Respectfully,

Richard E. Helton, Ph.D.  
President