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Air Camp Takes Off

02.15.2010 | Campus and Community, Engineering, Science  A group of Dayton-region educational institutions, foundations and community leaders today announced the creation of Air Camp, a weeklong summer camp for students in the seventh to ninth grades to experience the wonders of flight and the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) of aviation.

"Air Camp is intended to inspire students to discover the possibilities of science, technology, engineering and math in the context of aviation, during a week that will be full of adventure and fun," said Thomas J. Lasley II, dean of the University of Dayton's School of Education and Allied Professions and executive director of EDvention. "Our hope is that Air Camp will attract students from all over the U.S. as we expand our schedule in years to come."

Air Camp — July 18-23 at sites throughout the Miami Valley — will give 40 students chosen through a competitive application process practical learning experiences in a full range of aviation disciplines that include aircraft design, testing, operations and maintenance, flight-simulator training, flight planning and actual flying as a copilot. Students will discover the history of flight at Wright Brothers heritage sites and learn the latest advances in aviation technology through behind-the-scenes tours at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the Air Force Research Laboratory, the Science on a Sphere exhibit at the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery and the National Museum of the United States Air Force.

Applications for 2010 are available online at the related link. The deadline is April 15. Only students entering the seventh, eighth or ninth grades in the fall of 2010 may apply. Tuition, which includes room and board at the University of Dayton, is $900 and a limited number of need-based scholarships are available. The 40 students selected for the first Air Camp will be notified May 1.

Air Camp plans to offer more camps in the summer of 2011.

Sponsors include the University of Dayton, Sinclair Community College, Wright State University, the Engineering and Science Foundation, the Frank M. Tait Foundation, the Dayton Foundation, the Thomas B. Fordham Institute and the Turner Foundation.

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