

**Memorandum of Understanding
Between
Federal Aviation Administration
STEM Aviation and Space Education Program
And
Challenger Center for Space Science Education**

Purpose:

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes an agreement between the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Challenger Center for Space Science Education (Challenger Center) to develop and coordinate activities that encourage and foster the development of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) skills in primary and secondary school teachers and students (K-12) consistent with each organization's mission and vision.

The FAA's mission is to provide the safest, most efficient aerospace system in the world. The mission of the Office of Commercial Space Transportation is to ensure the protection of the public, property, and the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States during commercial launch and reentry activities; and to encourage, facilitate, and promote U.S. commercial space transportation.

Challenger Learning Center's mission is to engage students and teachers in dynamic, hands-on exploration and discovery opportunities that strengthen knowledge in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), inspire students to pursue careers in these fields, and provide an outlet to learn and apply important life skills.

As the commercial space industry evolves in the United States and globally, a workforce with strong STEM skills will be crucial. This agreement creates a partnership that fosters collaboration and shared educational expertise, ensuring today's students will have the necessary skills to meet the challenges facing the 21st century workforce.

Background:

The Office of Commercial Space Transportation (AST) was established in 1984 as part of the Office of the Secretary of Transportation within the Department of Transportation (DOT). In November 1995, AST was transferred to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and became the FAA's only space-related line of business. Among AST's responsibilities was to encourage, facilitate, and promote commercial space launches and reentries by the private sector and to facilitate the strengthening and expansion of the United States space transportation infrastructure.

As part of Public Law 94-353, a 1976 amendment to the Airport and Airway Development Act of 1970, the FAA established an aviation and space education program to serve as a vital educational mechanism available to all segments of society. The Agency continues to meet the requirements of this law through outreach efforts such as this collaborative agreement.

The FAA's Office of Commercial Space Transportation and the STEM AVSED program share some common goals with those of Challenger Center, including promoting aerospace interests and developing quality STEM-based programs. These programs contribute to the overarching goal of developing a diverse, qualified aerospace workforce for the future. This partnership provides an opportunity to establish a formal working relationship, where each organization brings its unique expertise, experience, and resources in support of common goals.

Dedicated to the educational spirit of the Challenger 51-L mission, Challenger Center and its global network of Challenger Learning Centers were developed to spark youth interest and joy in science and engineering and offer children, teachers, and citizens alike a place to explore science, learn effective problem solving strategies, and gain valuable teamwork skills. Challenger Center's vision is to build a scientifically literate public and shape our future leaders to help improve quality of life across the globe – not just through pragmatic teaching, but by the power of vision, inspiration, and innovation.

The synergy created through this formal relationship will increase each organization's ability to deploy quality programs that motivate and encourage students to develop STEM skills that may lead to careers in aerospace. It will also create a mechanism for educator training and support.

Points of Contact:

The FAA Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation and Challenger Center President and CEO will exchange contact information for individuals from their respective organizations who are designated to serve as points of contact to coordinate collaborative efforts to further the goals of this agreement.

Roles and Responsibilities:

It is understood and agreed by the undersigned that the intent of this MOU is to state shared goals and to establish and maintain cooperation and collaboration towards meeting these shared goals. This MOU does not create any binding obligation, contractual, financial, or otherwise, on either party. Each party agrees to conduct its respective activities in a coordinated and mutually beneficial manner. FAA and Challenger Center will evaluate their respective participation in any specific event on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with relevant law and regulations.

Under this MOU, FAA and Challenger Center agree to develop and coordinate activities that will address, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:

- Challenger Center will link FAA's STEM AVSED website to the Challenger Center website (www.challenger.org);
- FAA will link Challenger Center to FAA's Education website (www.faa.gov/education);

- FAA will disseminate Challenger Center information and other educational outreach materials, as they pertain to this MOU, through its regional and national outreach channels (i.e., website, outreach initiatives, teacher workshops, etc.);
- FAA will assist Challenger Center in the dissemination of educational program announcements and information through FAA information delivery means: STEM AVSED manager network, list serve, web announcements, and collaborative mailings; and
- FAA will collaborate with Challenger Center on a minimum of one STEM-based educational activity annually.

Effective Dates:

This MOU will be in effect at the time of signing and remain in effect for two years.

This MOU may be renewed for additional two year terms pursuant to and beginning on the date of execution by both parties.

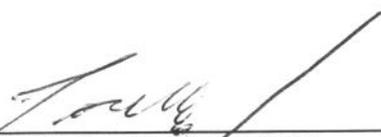
This MOU may be terminated at any time by either of the signing authorities or their successors. One party or the other must serve notice of the termination at least thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of that termination, or in the event of mutual consent, with no prior notice requirement.



 Michael P. Huerta, Acting Administrator
 Federal Aviation Administration

SEP 28 2012

 Date



 Lance Bush, President and CEO
 Challenger Center for Space Science Education

Sept. 28, 2012

 Date