

Published December 29, 2008 04:31 am - Plattsburgh Aeronautical Institute has received more than \$15 million in aviation-related equipment as well as donations of goods, services and other equipment.

Photos



Plattsburgh Aeronautical Institute Program Director Jim McCartney sits in the cockpit of a Cessna 182 that was donated to the school by Dr. George Boolukos.

Staff Photo/Kelli Catana /



A Cessna 182 that was donated to the Plattsburgh Aeronautical Institute by Dr. George Boolukos.

Staff Photo/Kelli Catana /

Donations benefit aeronautical school

Plattsburgh institute gets more than \$15 million in equipment

By **DAN HEATH**

Staff Writer

PLATTSBURGH -- Donations continue to fly in as Plattsburgh Aeronautical Institute prepares to launch in September 2009.

Program Coordinator Jim McCartney said the proposed FAA-certified Part 147 airframe and powerplant school has received more than \$15 million in aviation-related equipment donations.

CV-TEC Director Dr. Barry Mack said that has helped keep costs down as CV-TEC and Clinton Community College work to establish the school, which will serve high-school and adult students.

"CV-TEC deeply values the support we have received from our benefactors as their donations will play an essential role in our new aviation technology program," he said.

Just recently, the institute received a Huey UH-1E from the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group, based at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base near Tucson, Ariz. McCartney said it is valued at about \$1.2 million.

"The instrumentation is all in there. It has all of the parts necessary to operate as an aircraft."

The Huey was used as an evacuation helicopter by the U.S. Marine Corps., McCartney said, and was obtained from the U.S. Navy.

Two radial aircraft engines, valued at \$45,000 each, were part of the same shipment. They will be used on the DC-3 aircraft that was donated by local businessman Jim Drollette in the early days of the move to start the institute.

Two sets of Cobra helicopter blades were also sent from the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group on that truck. They are valued at \$184,000.

McCartney said they are another great instructional tool, as they can be used to study how aerodynamic properties provide lift for flight, similar to wings on a regular aircraft.

Tim Horn, one of the directors of the Regeneration Group, used to be based in Plattsburgh and still has relatives in the region. He has helped smooth the long, detailed process of getting aircraft from the government, McCartney said.

The institute also recently received a Piper Cherokee 140 from Dr. George Flynn, a professor of math and physics at Plattsburgh State. That plane is valued at \$15,000, as determined by a independent evaluator.

A Cessna 182 valued at \$30,000 was also donated by Dr. George

Bohlukos, a Plattsburgh-area physician.

The donations will help the school meet Federal Aviation Administration requirements for a Part 147 powerplant and airframe school.

"We needed small, general-aviation aircraft to round out our instruction equipment," McCartney said. "With these two aircraft, we can now fulfill our general-aviation requirement."

Plattsburgh Aeronautical Institute had earlier received a T-39 Sabreliner from the Regeneration Group, valued at \$1.1 million. The aircraft has two jet engines and still contains the instruments and equipment that would allow it to fly.

The school will be receiving two additional aircraft engines from Pratt & Whitney Canada, valued at \$155,000. It has already received eight engines from the Canadian aerospace company.

Clinton County has been generous with donations of former military equipment used at Plattsburgh Air Force Base, McCartney said, and local companies have donated goods and services.

"The support the program continues to get from local and regional benefactors is giving us the equipment and services to run and expand a high-quality program."

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