

McHUGH NEWS RELEASE

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McHugh Directs \$1 Million to Help Plattsburgh Aeronautical Institute "Lift-Off"

CJSS Appropriations Conference Report Funds Institute's Development at Former PAFB

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Rep. John M. McHugh (R-NY) has secured \$1 million in federal funding for the Plattsburgh Aeronautical Institute (PAI) as part of the Conference Report for Fiscal Year 2006 Commerce-Justice-Science State (CJSS) Appropriations. The monies awarded to PAI will be used as start-up funding for the Institute, and will aid in critical infrastructure and capital improvements to sites on the former Plattsburgh Air Force Base (PAFB).

"Creation of the Plattsburgh Aeronautical Institute is a win-win for our region on so many levels, and I am pleased to have secured \$1 million to help PAI lift-off," McHugh said. "The school will increase the level of technical training in the area, as well as the state, and brings together existing educational and community resources. Plus, with such technical training available in Plattsburgh, we will offer better options for higher education to keep our young people living, learning, and working in the region."

"As a result of Congressman McHugh's vision and support, the Plattsburgh Aeronautical Institute can begin to provide world-class educational opportunities to secondary and post-secondary students in Clinton County, Essex County and New York State. The PAI seeks to supply the 'Tech Valley' and the Quebec- New York Corridor with a highly trained aeronautical workforce. This will support business and industry throughout the region and support commercial aviation at the new Plattsburgh International Airport, and also provide opportunities for international collaboration between PAI and Ecole nationale d'aerotechnique (ENA), their aeronautical partner in St. Hubert's Quebec," said Jim McCartney, PAI Project Coordinator.

PAI is a partnership between CV-Tec and Clinton Community College that would create the only Part 147 Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) school north of the Metropolitan New York area and one of only five such schools in the state. It would offer unique Career and Technical Education program that serves the Plattsburgh International Airport's growing aeronautical industry, meets the educational needs of high school students and adults, and promotes the technical expertise of the region's workforce.

McHugh worked closely with House CJSS Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Frank Wolf to ensure that the funds for PAI would be included in the final CJSS Conference Report. The House is expected to approve the Conference Report today.

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