

SEN. LITTLE ANNOUNCES \$200,000 FOR PLATTSBURGH AERONAUTICAL INSTITUTE

A partnership between CV-TEC and Clinton Community College to establish the Plattsburgh Aeronautical Institute (PAI) has received a boost from Senator Betty Little (R,C,I-Queensbury) who pledged \$200,000 in state funds for the project. This initial funding enables PAI to purchase a hangar necessary to house instructional aircraft, a critical first step that ensures the Institute remains on track to open in September 2007.

Little met Wednesday with representatives of both schools, area aeronautical firms, government officials and economic development officials to discuss the project and ask how she could be helpful.

"The priority now is the aeronautical hangar," said Little. "This state funding is start-up money to purchase the hangar and keep this project moving forward. It's great to be a part of this collaboration between CV-TEC and Clinton Community College, government officials and the private sector. And, now it's officially a cross-border project with a Memorandum of Understanding being signed last week. I am pleased to have the opportunity to be helpful."

Dr. Barry Mack, Director of CV-TEC, was enthusiastic about the strong financial support pledged by Senator Little, which will have "a positive impact on the future economic growth in the region."

"We are greatly appreciative for this \$200,000 pledge by Senator Little which will help advance the Plattsburgh Aeronautical Institute," said Dr. Mack. "We will be able to launch the construction phase of the Plattsburgh Aeronautical Institute on the site of the new Plattsburgh International Airport. The PAI will provide highly skilled FAA certified Airframe and Powerplant technicians for employment in aeronautical firms such as Pratt and Whitney or with Homeland Security.

"In addition, the Plattsburgh Aeronautical Institute will help attract new employers to the region with the promise of a skilled work force. Our partnership with Clinton Community College, along with support from many area businesses and Workforce Investment Board, is unprecedented and will be enhanced by Senator Little's generous support."

"The \$200,000 pledged by Senator Little will allow us to construct the instructional hanger and bring the PAI one step closer to our target of classes commencing in the Fall of 2007," said Maurice B. Hickey, President of Clinton Community College. "The senator's support is affirmation of her commitment to the North Country and the significance of the PAI to economic development of the region. We believe the senator's infusion of funding will lead the way for others to provide additional financial support to the Institute."

"Thanks to Senator Little, Plattsburgh Aeronautical Institute will become a reality," stated Garry Douglas, President of the Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce, "and that represents another giant step forward in developing the potential of Plattsburgh International Airport. We have the aviation facilities, the strategic location, and will soon have a terminal. The last ingredient for successfully marketing the airport is workforce training, and Senator Little has just helped to provide the final piece of the puzzle."

Michael Zurlo, Clinton County Administrator commented, "Senator Little's commitment to funding this most worthwhile project is great news. A successful Plattsburgh Aeronautical Institute will ensure the development of a highly-skilled workforce in this discipline, and in doing so, will greatly enhance the County's ability to retain and expand operations of our existing tenants, as well as attract new aeronautical tenants to Plattsburgh International Airport."

Doug Fage, Manager of Flight Operations at Pratt & Whitney, said, "The Plattsburgh Aeronautical Institute will ensure there is a nucleus of qualified Airframe and Powerplant Technicians available to aircraft operators or maintenance facilities at the Plattsburgh International Airport. The availability of these highly skilled individuals will be critical to their success."

Ed Marin, cofounder and Engineering Manager at Composite Factory, Inc., said, "We support the PAI endeavor because it will help grow a stronger technology base in the employable community. This is a foundation that is not only beneficial to the aerospace industry but to all aspects of the community. We originally came from California because we recognized the incredible opportunity in the infrastructure available at the old Air Force Base. A strong technology base makes our vision possible and it will attract the right type of business. Furthermore, we would not have to outsource so much of our work that currently goes out of state."

Jim McCartney, Coordinator for CV-TECH said, "The Senator's approval of PAI-related funding in the amount of \$200,000 demonstrates her commitment to providing training opportunities for North Country residents, to the successful development of the Plattsburgh International Airport, to the needs of a growing aeronautical industry in our region, and to the success of our region's secondary and post-secondary educational institutions."

The Plattsburgh Aeronautical Institute represents a unique, efficient and proactive blend of existing technical school and collegiate resources at the former Plattsburgh Air Force Base, now known as the Plattsburgh International Airport.

Scheduled to open in September 2007, the Institute will benefit the airport by supporting existing and attracting new aeronautical firms, creating jobs and providing technically skilled job training programs and professional development opportunities for high school students and adults.

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