Austin E. Knowlton Foundation Donation

Austin E. Knowlton Foundation gives Ohio State $10M to enhance aviation, education and research facilities

Funding will be cornerstone of a multiyear renovation of the university’s airport at Don Scott Field

By: Chris Davey
Published on July 23, 2015

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Continuing its namesake’s commitment to education and to his alma mater, the Austin E. Knowlton Foundation has donated $10 million to upgrade aviation education and research facilities, and the terminal at The Ohio State University Airport.

“This generous gift reinforces the university’s commitment to aviation education and research at Ohio State and to utilize Don Scott Field as it was originally intended—training pilots, advancing aviation innovation and serving the needs of a growing region,” said Dean David B. Williams of the College of Engineering. “Modernizing the facilities will allow us to keep pace with the educational needs of 500-plus Ohio State students, research demands of the state and nation, and service expectations of local businesses and pilots.”

The gift will support construction of a new aviation education and research facility with state-of-the-art flight simulators, research labs and classrooms. Combined with a modern flight terminal, the new facilities will integrate education with airport operations, benefiting Ohio students as well as Columbus-area residents and visitors.

With this core funding in place, Ohio State will be sharing the vision for airport modernization with community, civic and corporate leaders over the next few months. In conjunction with development of the Austin E.
Please welcome the following new employee(s) to the airport:
- Kurtis Meyer, Student Associate
- David Werst, Flight Dispatcher
- Adam Stiles, Flight Dispatcher

Some pilots might need to change their old habits when taxiing out of the T-hangars to the east ramp or taxiway alpha. Pilots are permitted to proceed with caution past the northern end of the hangar row and onto the east ramp before the non-movement line. This is where they can take the time they need to contact ground control and make the necessary preparations for their flight. Tenants who rent hangars on the east ramp may still believe that when taxiing out between the row of hangars, they are required to stop at the norh end of the hangar row to make contact with ground control. However, it is no longer necessary to stop at that spot and ask permission from ground control to be permitted to proceed further out onto the east ramp. This old rule was invalidated a number of years when a yellow line was painted across the taxi way at the northern most end of the hangar row. But old habits persist. Many pilots continue to sit at that spot to contact ground control. When they sit unnecessarily and await clearance, program their GPS, discuss matters with their passengers, etc., they block the taxiway for other aircraft. If they will adopt the newer rules, they will not block the other airplanes ready to taxi in or out from between the hangars.

Governor Kasich signed the state budget that secures an increase of $6,000,000 per fiscal year in the Ohio Airport Grant Program. While these funds will be limited to repair and repaveinent of existing runways and approach clearing, this still amounts to significant progress in our effort to restore Ohio’s status as a leader in aviation.

Thank you for your help in reminding the Ohio legislature that access to reliable airports in both commercial and rural settings is a major benefit for businesses looking to expand or relocate and that general aviation airports are critical to the state’s overall economic competitiveness. This increase would not have happened without your efforts as airport managers and industry leaders who met with legislators and hosted tours across the state.

We especially would like to thank Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), State Representative Rick Perales (R-Beavercreek), chair of the Ohio Aerospace and Aviation Technology Committee and State Representative Cheryl Grossman (R-Grove City) chair of the House Finance Subcommittee on Transportation, Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina) and Senator Bill Beagle (R-Tipp-City). They truly understand how important it is to reinvest in our transportation infrastructure and how it generates revenue for the state in research and development, manufacturing and jobs.

Our attention will now turn to working with the Ohio Department of Transportation to make necessary changes to the Ohio Airport Grant Program so that these funds can be fully utilized to meet the needs of airports across the state. Ohio was once a regional and national leader in the aviation sector; our state license plates still bear the saying, “Birthplace of Aviation.” This new investment is one major step in helping Ohio to regain its status as a regional, national, and international leader in aviation and aerospace. Sincerely, Greg E. Heaton, P.E., AICP, OAA President

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**Congratulations to the following students on their recent accomplishments: July 2015**

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Knowlton Aviation Learning Center and Executive Terminal, additional university and philanthropic funds will be used to construct complementary aircraft hangars and support facilities for Ohio State's flight education fleet and private aircraft. Plans and timelines will be shared with the community as they develop.

Since opening in 1942, The Ohio State University Airport at Don Scott Field has served as a learning lab for future aviation professionals, a hub of research and a highly regarded facility for civilian and small business aircraft. Some highlights:

- More than 500 students a year are pursuing aviation degrees, training for professional pilot certifications, performing federally sponsored research, and engaging in community outreach programming at the airport through the Center for Aviation Studies, as well as the College of Engineering, Fisher College of Business, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Moritz College of Law and the John Glenn College of Public Affairs.
- The airport delivers $157 million in direct and indirect benefits to central Ohio, according to a study commissioned by Ohio State in 2012. Local companies, including Cardinal Health, Worthington Industries and DLZ, use Ohio State's airport as a primary business travel hub.
- MedFlight critical care helicopters, U.S. Army Reserve paratrooper training and Ohio State Highway Patrol aviation operations all use the airport as a hub for activities that save lives in our community and beyond.
- Ohio State is a key participant in three key federal research initiatives to improve aviation safety, reduce noise and create the next generation of airport and air traffic operations. This work is being conducted through the Federal Aviation Administration National Research Centers of Excellence.

These modernization efforts are needed because the airport’s educational spaces, terminal and most of its hangars are more than 50 years old. The Knowlton Foundation gift, which will be allocated over the next five years, will allow the university to remain at the forefront of aviation-related education and research.

"Dutch Knowlton was a pioneer in using aircraft to support and grow his many business interests," said Eric Lindberg, trustee of the Austin E. Knowlton Foundation. "Although he was best known for his construction company and ownership in the Cincinnati Bengals and Reds, he had a lifetime passion for aviation. He acquired a Beech dealership and began using business aircraft to travel between construction sites in the 1960s, later operating an air charter company and multiple Learjets and helicopters from the 1970s — and he remained an avid Learjet fan until the end of his life, always outfitting his airplanes in his signature emerald and white livery.

"Mr. Knowlton understood the vital importance of aviation as a part of the infrastructure of the American economy and loved Ohio State — so this grant is a great combination of his passions and he would be proud to see his foundation supporting such an important project."

Over the next decade, up to 45,000 new pilots will be needed to support the commercial aviation industry, according to the airline industry and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Ohio State’s Center for Aviation Studies currently has about 2,000 square feet for classrooms, simulators and one-on-one instruction, when at least twice that amount is needed to support students — the industry’s lifeblood.

"The current infrastructure is basically unchanged in the past 50 years," said Ohio State Assistant Chief Flight Instructor Christine Zavodnik, "so these improvements will benefit not only students and faculty, but also businesses and the community."

"Continued on next page"
“Ohio State’s airport is an important economic development asset for the Columbus region,” added Columbus 2020 Chief Economic Officer Kenny McDonald. “The aerospace research and pilot training conducted at the OSU Airport brings new dollars into the area and prepares students for great careers in the industry. It also serves as a gateway to the Columbus region for many important visitors and companies and provides significant benefits for the surrounding communities.”

Aviation education at Ohio State dates back to 1917, when the university opened its School of Aeronautics to provide training for military aviation operations. The university’s aviation programs are managed today out of its Center for Aviation Studies, established in 2011 and awarded the nation’s most outstanding collegiate aviation program in 2015 by the National Intercollegiate Flying Association.

Austin E. Knowlton received his architectural engineering degree from Ohio State in 1931. Also known as “Dutch,” he was the owner and chairman of the Knowlton Construction Company, which started in Bellefontaine, Ohio, in 1937 and whose predecessors dated back to 1906. His company was responsible for over 600 major construction projects throughout Ohio and the Midwest, including school buildings, hospitals and libraries. Dutch was an aircraft owner and a frequent client of The Ohio State University Airport in the 1980s and 1990s. In his honor and in recognition of his philanthropic support, Ohio State’s school of architecture was renamed in his honor in 1994.

Founded in 1981, the nonprofit Austin E. Knowlton Foundation seeks to promote and advance higher education in the United States and to provide direct grants and contributions to qualified colleges and universities.

**YOUTH AVIATION ADVENTURE (YAA)**

The Youth Aviation Adventure (YAA) program was founded in Columbus, Ohio in 1997 by Steve Wathen and Dan Kiser when the two pilots and friends helped Steve’s son and several other Boy Scouts earn their Aviation Merit Badge. They so enjoyed this first experience of working with youth and aviation that they recruited Scouts from other troops and began holding a formal program twice a year at Don Scott Field. Later, they also recruited Girl Scouts and youth from other organizations and the general public. As word of the program spread and attendance grew, the co-founders began improving the program by recruiting other people and organizations (both in and outside Ohio) to assist in its expansion; that improvement continues to this day with 27 Partner Programs established from coast to coast.

Co-founder Steve Wathen is the chief executive officer, principal and founder of Equity Real Estate in Columbus. He graduated from The Ohio State University in 1981 with a bachelor’s degree in administrative science, and has completed additional studies in real estate finance, appraisal, urban planning and development. He received his Ohio real estate sales license in 1981 and his real estate broker’s license in 1994. Steve serves on the Board of Trustees for The Ohio State University’s Student Loan Foundation and Pregnancy Decision Health Center; he is also a licensed private pilot and certified SCUBA diver.

Co-founder Dan Kiser worked in public accounting for eight years after earning his accounting degree in 1980. He was then the corporate controller for a 20-unit retail photography chain, and later the controller for a commercial window treatment manufacturer. He is also a licensed private pilot and CFI, and served as a CFI at The Ohio State University from 1979-85.

*Contributed by Greg Codispoti*
The Ohio State University Airport

OPEN HOUSE AND
DON SCOTT TROT

5K on the RUNWAY

The Ohio State University Airport, 2160 West Case Rd. Columbus Oh, 43235

Free Open House on Saturday, October 3, 2015 from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Pancake breakfast, Young Eagles free plane rides for youth, hot air balloon rides, static display of aircraft and trucks, exhibit booths, and much, much more! For more info, go to www.osuairport.org.

5K Entry Fee: $40 through September 1; $45 through September 30 (no race day registration)

5K start time: 7:30 a.m. Register at www.premierraces.com
BLOOD DRIVE AT MedFLIGHT

Blood Drive at MedFlight
Friday, August 14th
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
(last appointment scheduled at 3:45)

At the Main Base in the Classroom

To schedule your appointment, please contact Kelly Garcia 614-734-8001, or visit redcrossblood.org and use the sponsor code: Medflight.

*Come to donate and receive a free T-shirt (while supplies last), receive a Columbus Zoo BOGO entry offer, and enter to win a $500 Marathon gas gift card!

PRIMROSE SCHOOL AIRPORT TOUR

Children from Primrose School got an extra treat on their June 8 airport tour. They got to see #EAA's One Week Wonder, as well as the Goodyear Blimp. The One Week Wonder is a Zenith CH 750 Cruzer airplane built by 2,500 volunteers in just seven days at #EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2014. The Goodyear Blimp was in the Columbus area in early June, covering The Memorial Golf Tournament.
Tenth NIFA Fund Raiser Golf Classic

DENISON GOLF CLUB
AT GRANVILLE

555 Newark-Granville Rd.
Granville, Ohio 43023
740-587-GOLF (4653)

September 14, 2015
9:30 AM EDT Shotgun Start
Four Player Scramble
Lunch to Follow

NIFA Golf Classic Response Card
Please RSVP by September 07, 2015

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Please check participation level:

- $ 75 Individual Golfer
- $ 300 Foursome
- $ 200 Hole Sponsor
- $ 3,000 Sponsor + 4 players
- $ 2,000 Sponsor + 3 players
- $ 1,000 Sponsor + 2 players

I cannot attend but wish to make a contribution in the amount of $__________

For information on NIFA & paying by credit card, please visit our website at [http://nifa.aero](http://nifa.aero).

Please make checks payable to:

NIFA, Inc.
Attn: Richard G. Smith III
2160 West Case Road, Unit #7
Columbus, OH 43235
614-247-5444 (office)

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7TH ANNUAL HANGARFEST

*Located at the OSU Airport*

Admission is Free

Events include a Silent Auction, Live Music, Hors d’oeuvres, an Open Bar, a Static Display, and MUCH more!

Saturday, August 22nd

19:00 - 22:00 hrs

Location: OSU Airport
Hangar 8
2160 W. Case Road
Columbus OH 43235

Please RSVP at
YouthAviationAdventure.org

For more Information contact Rick Ochs
614-537-3052; rick@SpiritAeronautics.com
The Ohio State University Airport Newsletter Advertising

Do you have an aviation-related product or business that you would like all of your fellow aviation enthusiasts to be aware of? The Ohio State University Airport’s Newsletter is a perfect place to spread the word.

Our newsletter reaches hundreds of people every month! It is mailed to every tenant and several hundred people receive it through an email notification. The newsletter is also posted the entire month and archived on our website at www.osuairport.org. Please contact Mike Eppley at 614.292.5592 or meppley@osuairport.org if you would like to advertise with us.

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Hours
Monday - Friday 7am - 3pm
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WCMH NBC 4, Nosh TV show, Columbus Monthly, Home Box Office, Yelp

Ohio Magazine "Best Breakfast in Ohio"

Airport Hours
FBO: M-F 0600-2300, Sa/Su 0630-2300
Aircraft Maintenance: M-F 0730-1600
OSU Flight Education: MTWTh 0700-0100, F 0700-2000, Sa/Su 0900-1700
All Times Eastern

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Flight Education Director
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614.292.5614 (Dispatch Desk)

Outreach Coordinator
Cindy Overly - 614.247.4366

Airport Business Manager
Kim Riddlebaugh - 614.688.3596