



Mn/DOT Aeronautics Adopt-A-School Program Nationally Recognized

Mn/DOT Aeronautics, Aviation Education, Safety, and Training Section was recognized for its Adopt-A-School program by the presentation of the NASAO Center Aviation Education Program Award at the 77th Annual National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) Convention and Tradeshow. The convention, held in Anchorage, Alaska, September 27- 30, 2008, was attended by Aeronautics Directors from more than 40 states, along with industry experts and Federal Aviation Administration officials.

The award was presented by the NASAO Center for Aviation Research and Education to Janese Thatcher, Manager of Aviation Education, Safety, and Training. This is the fourth national award received by Thatcher from NASAO since 2002 for developing aviation education and safety programs. The NASAO Center Aviation Education Program Award was established in 1993. Nominations are judged based on the degree to which the program contributes to student motivation in the classroom by incorporating aviation themes into course work, and recognition for programs that

support and assist in the development of a national effort to make aviation education readily available to the elementary, secondary, vocational, technical, and college levels.

The Adopt-A-School Program was developed by the Aviation Safety, Education, and Training Section in response to requests from airport managers for ideas, materials, and activities for visiting school students and their teachers. It provides curriculum and materials for teachers to cover with their students in advance of their visit to the airport which makes the visit more effective and meaningful and furthers aviation education.

The program also contains activities relevant to the class lesson for the airport manager or representative to conduct with the students during their visit. This innovative program encourages an understanding of the social and economic impact that airports have on communities, as well as give hands-on learning of science, math, technology, and aviation careers. The program also provides excellent materials and activities for use as an aviation summer camp and for other groups such as Girl and Boy Scouts and 4-H.

NASAO CENTER FOR AVIATION RESEARCH & EDUCATION primary objective is to enhance the general public good through an expanded and increasingly safe air transportation system. To achieve this goal, the NASAO Center is involved in all phases of the aviation industry by conducting research; holding seminars, and conferences; publishing proceedings, books, working papers and policy papers. It also provides management training and technical assistance to all levels of government and the aviation industry.