



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 31, 2018

CONTACT:

Anne Murata, Director of Marketing
808-441-1013; 808-375-9577 (cell)

Anne@PacificAviationMuseum.org

Laurie LaGrange

Ontai-LaGrange And Associates
808-375-9335 (cell)

ontai@pixi.com

(To access photos from previous field trips and Barnstorming Tours, go to <http://bit.ly/2EUtd8s>. Credit: Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor)

Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor Now Offering 2018 Funding For Schools To Participate In Museum's STEM Education Programs

Honolulu, HI – Each year, more than 15,000 students participate in STEM education programs offered by Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor, many times at a subsidized cost that includes round trip transportation to the Museum and discounted admission fees, thanks to grants provided by generous donors.

The Museum is now accepting requests from schools throughout Hawaii to access funds from the following scholarships and foundation grants:

The Col. Robert F. Szul Scholarship for School Groups: Provides funding for student groups from Title I schools to participate in STEM education programs at the Museum. Col. Robert Szul was a highly-decorated Air Force pilot who served in Viet Nam, and later worked as an executive for IBM and Siemens in their Homeland Security division. In retirement, he volunteered at the Museum as a STEM instructor and museum docent, inspiring many with his love of aviation. In 2016, Col. Szul was named the Museum's Volunteer of the Year.

The Mamoru and Aiko Takitani Foundation: A \$10,000 grant provides fully-subsidized funding for Title I schools to participate in field trips to the Museum. This includes transportation funding and admission fees so that K-12 student groups may access age-appropriate and engaging learning activities at our historically-significant site on Ford Island. The Mamoru and Aiko Takitani Foundation is a non-profit, charitable organization dedicated to helping Hawaii's youth achieve their educational and career goals by providing scholarships and other educational opportunities to Hawaii students. Mamoru and Aiko Takitani, founders of Hawaiian Host, established the foundation in 1993 to thank the people of Hawaii for their outstanding support of Hawaiian Host products. Since its inception, the Foundation has provided over \$2.3 million in scholarships.

The Freeman Foundation: A \$50,000 grant will fund bus transportation for Oahu Title I schools to participate in on-site, hands-on STEM activities at the Museum over an 18-month period. After the 1993 passing of American International Group (AIG) co-founder Mansfield Freeman, the Freeman Foundation was established to strengthen bonds of friendship and mutual understanding between the U.S. and those of the Far East in hopes of lessening the danger of disagreements and friction that could lead to war.

The Barnstorming Tour: Each year, the Museum's Barnstorming Team travels to schools throughout Hawaii to bring this free STEM education program to sixth graders in their classrooms. Students learn the science behind aviation through a comprehensive, interactive 90-minute curriculum developed by Museum staff in collaboration with educators and science advisors from University of Hawaii at Manoa. The Barnstorming Tour is aligned with Hawaii State Content Standards for Grade 6, and uses table-top experiments to introduce students to Newton's Third Law of Motion and Bernoulli's Principle; a portable wind tunnel to demonstrate how wind tunnels are used to design and test objects such as aircraft and cars; and a P-40 flight simulator that allows students to take the controls of a simulated flying machine. Since its inception in 2010, the Barnstorming Tour has reached more than 26,000 sixth graders on Oahu, Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii Island.

“Our ability to provide these valuable STEM education programs for students of all ages is made possible through the generous support we receive from scholarships and foundations such as the Col. Robert F. Szul Scholarship fund, and the Mamoru and Aiko Takitani and the Freeman foundations,” said Shauna Tonkin, Director of Education, Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor. “Removing cost and logistical barriers to our educational programs is key for providing access to school groups that otherwise would not be able to participate in these activities at the Museum. Our STEM programs help students understand the history and science of flight, and introduce aviation and aeronautical engineering as a viable career.”

The Museum recently launched a new, standards-based field trip designed for students of all ages. For high school students, the Museum now offers *The Decision Center*, an innovative Live Action Role Play simulation that emphasizes critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and decision making. Customized STEM activities are included in all field trip programs, as well as the lessons of courage, resilience, and patriotism that are reinforced at the Museum’s historic site.

Additional information and field trip requests to access these grants can be found at the Museum’s website, PacificAviationMuseum.org/Education/Field-Trips. Interested schools can also email Jordyn Chuck at Education@PacificAviationMuseum.org or call 808-445-1019.

Organizations or individuals interested in sponsoring a grant should contact Carol Greene, 808-441-1006 or email Carol.Greene@PacificAviationMuseum.org.

Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor is located on Historic Ford Island, where bombs fell during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. Visitors to the Museum can see remnants from that day of infamy, including the 158-foot tall, red and white iconic Ford Island Control Tower, Hangars 37 and 79, and bullet holes in Hangar 79. Through its preservation and restoration of World War II fighter planes and accompanying artifacts in the Museum’s historic hangars, Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor shares the story of the vital role aviation played in the winning of World War II, and its continuing role in maintaining America’s freedom.

Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. Its mission is to develop and maintain an internationally recognized aviation museum on Historic Ford Island that educates young and old alike, honors aviators and their support personnel who defended freedom in The Pacific Region, and to preserve Pacific aviation history.

Contact: 808-441-1000; Marketing@PacificAviationMuseum.org

###