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State's acting aviation director, teen to compete in all-women air race

Kansas' Acting Director of Aviation and her teenage co-pilot will compete later this month in a national, all-women air race that was founded in 1929 by the state's best-known aviatrix and other women pilots.

Tiffany Brown, who was appointed acting director of aviation at the Kansas Department of Transportation in April, will be joined by Taylor Humphrey on flight team TNT. Taylor, 18, graduated last month from Winfield High School and is one of the youngest pilots competing in the 2015 Air Race Classic.

Brown said she wants to create an awareness of aviation in young girls and inspire them to take on challenges.

"I started flying with the idea that if I can fly an airplane, I can do anything. I want to share that confidence with girls who are seven or eight or even in their teens," said Brown.

This year's four-day, 2,100-nautical-mile, race begins in Fredericksburg, Va., and will conclude in Fairhope, Ala., on the Gulf Coast. The race was founded by Amelia Earhart and other women fliers in response to being excluded from competing against men in air races. The race was initially called the Air Derby.

"For a long time women were looked down upon in aviation and, to a degree, I believe that thinking still exists," said Humphrey. "I think it's important to tell young girls that you can go after your dream."

To learn more about the race, visit the [Air Race Classic](#) website.

Attached with the release are portraits of Brown and Humphrey, as well a photo of them together.

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Taylor Humphrey, left, and Tiffany Brown



Tiffany Brown



Taylor Humphrey