

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kansas Commission on Aerospace Education elects two KDOT employees to board

The Kansas Commission on Aerospace Education (KCAE) recently elected two Kansas Department of Transportation Division of Aviation team members to its board of directors. Lindsey Dreiling was elected KCAE's president and Trever Linn it's Secretary. The organization is a private, non-profit organization that aims to develop and encourage educational programs that promote the aviation industry in Kansas to young students and future industry members.

KCAE has worked closely with industry stakeholders and KDOT's Division of Aviation to encourage children of all ages to pursue their aviation dreams. The partnership between KDOT and KCAE will also help address workforce shortage issues, expand aviation education across the state, and ensure Kansas youth are ready for a changing industry as they work closely with commission members.

The organization also helps fund and plan the Fly Kansas Air Tour and Aviation Day at the Capitol, in addition to awarding thousands of dollars in scholarships to young students interested in aviation every year.

"STEM education plays an important role in the state's aviation future," said KDOT's Director of Aviation Merrill Atwater. "I applaud the Kansas Commission on Aerospace Education's continued dedication to aviation education as it continues to embrace its vital role."

Ed Young, the Former President has high hopes for the commission as well, and believes the shift in leadership will open the doorway for growth. "The Kansas Commission on Aerospace Education is a special organization," he said. "Its membership includes pilots, educators, aviation business leaders and community

leaders interested in aviation. With the election of Lindsey Dreiling as President, the mission of encouraging aviation educational and vocational programs has no limits.”

Lindsey and the board anticipate increased membership participation this year as they plan to grow Kansas aviation education events and increase scholarship programs. “Aviation and aerospace education are vital to sustain the Kansas aviation workforce,” she said. “The commission is excited for future opportunities to engage students.”

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