

# The State of Kansas Aviation Newsletter

## *Where the skies are not cloudy all day!*



Mid-Summer Edition

Published July 24, 2014

## KDOT Aviation staff updates

### Welcome the new guy, say good bye and flying high!

At the Kansas Association of Airports conference this past June, George Laliberte announced that he would be retiring in January 2015. "You can always make more money, but you can't make more time," George stated. "It's now time for me and my wife to start realizing the plans we made 35 years ago."

"George will be missed," said Jesse R. Romo, KDOT Aviation Director. "Besides being a great colleague in the office, he has been a great friend and personal mentor." His pending departure has set off a ripple effect through the structure of office responsibilities as we move forward with a succession plan. Staff changes are highlighted below. Nate Hinckel continues to serve as the Manager of Marketing and Outreach in our Wichita office and Traci Ward provides administrative support.

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In July 2014, Dennis O'Connor joined the KDOT Division of Aviation after serving multiple roles in airport management across the country. From Burbank, CA to Teterboro, NJ, Dennis was involved with noise and environmental compliance. Most recently he led an airport redevelopment effort at Whitehurst Field in Bolivar, TN (near Memphis) as Airport Manager.

Originally from Katonah, NY, Dennis first began a career in broadcasting and public affairs. These skill sets will be utilized in his new role as he leads the Aeris Vigilis, Kansas Airspace Protection Program, reconciling conflicts between vertical devel-

opment and airport airspace. Dennis will also manage aviation data and performance measures for the division; and will publish the airport directory and aeronautical chart.

With relatives serving in the Air Force, Dennis' aviation interest started early and eventually advanced to the level of commercial pilot and flight instructor. He also holds certification (CM) from the American Association of Airport Executives. He enjoys spending free time sightseeing, swimming and riding his classic-design Schwinn 10-speed bike.

Please join us in welcoming Dennis to Kansas as he serves as our Manager of State and Federal Affairs.

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In February 2013, the KDOT Division of Aviation added a position of State Aviation Engineer. Before Tiffany Brown joined our team, she had been working with Benesch, a consulting firm located in Manhattan, Kansas. While there, she was a design engineer working on airport master planning, designing airport expansions, and was involved with the KDOT Aviation statewide airport pavement management study.

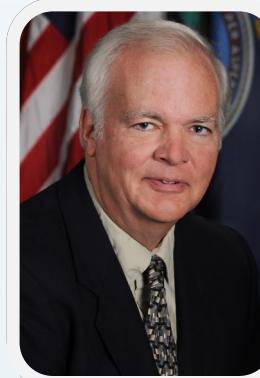
Tiffany has quickly proven herself as a leader in our office and was elevated to the position of Deputy Director, State Aviation Engineer. She will continue to oversee airport planning and the Kansas Airport Development Program but will pick up responsibility for more programs, including the Kansas Airport Improvement Program.



George Laliberte, Deputy Director



Tiffany Brown  
Deputy Director, State Aviation Engineer



Dennis O'Connor  
Manager Federal-State Affairs

# Kansas Aviation Expo 2014 — Fly Kansas Air Tour

## 2nd year even ready to take-off, in a big way

After a successful inaugural event last year, state aviation officials are gearing up and partnering with the Kansas Commission on Aerospace Education to host the 2nd Annual Kansas Aviation Expo, Sept. 22-26.

This year's Expo will feature a week's worth of events, including the Fly Kansas Air Tour, two around-the-world pilots and business seminars. Last year's inaugural event featured several leading industry speakers and left attendees asking for more each year.

"This year our theme will be 'where dreams come true' because there is something for everyone when it comes to aviation," said Jesse R. Romo, Director of Aviation for the Kansas Department of Transportation. "One of our goals this year is to reach out and engage as many school kids as possible to encourage them to pursue their dreams and consider a career in aviation."

During the air tour, pilots will fly their aircraft throughout the state carrying the message that aviation is for everyone. For three days, three stops a day, the group will barnstorm in aircraft that range from a vintage Stearman to a modern Cessna 182.

Each stop will highlight a different

aspect of Kansas aviation and draw in several local school kids.

Day 1 kicks off Sept. 22 in Wellington, moves to Hutchinson for lunch and ends in Dodge City with an evening event. Day 2 begins in Scott City, continues to Salina and ends in Topeka. The third day will go through Pittsburg and Independence before ending in Benton.

Following the air tour on Sept. 25, Barrington Irving, who once was the youngest person to fly around the world solo, will bring his Flying Classroom to Wichita and demonstrate to high school students how STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) is used in aviation.

The Flying Classroom event will include a career fair at which hundreds of high school students will learn about all the options aviation has to offer.

On the evening of Sept. 25., Amelia Rose Earhart will talk about her around-the-world flying trip and her Fly with Amelia Foundation that helps high school girls learn how to fly. Amelia Rose, who is not related to her namesake, recreated the route the earlier Amelia Mary Earhart had attempted, and became the

youngest female pilot to circumnavigate the globe.

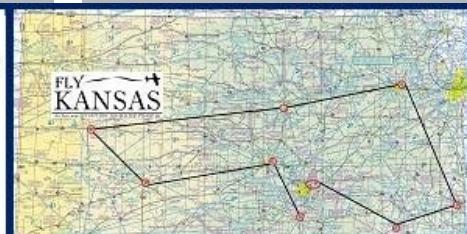
The schedule for Friday, Sept. 26 will include speakers from the FAA, TSA, AOPA, NBAA, EAA and more.

Governor Sam Brownback said the week's events are valuable to highlight the importance of aviation to the Kansas economy and to introduce young people to aviation and possible careers.

"Kansas is proud of its history in aviation," said Gov. Brownback. "The popularity of this event highlights the importance of aviation and the contributions Kansas and Kansans continue to make in this critical industry."

"Events like this are made possible by the collaborating efforts of our stakeholders and industry partners," Romo said. "Growing this annual event is reflective of everyone's hard work and dedication towards advancing aviation in Kansas. We're grateful for their support and encourage everyone to attend and participate."

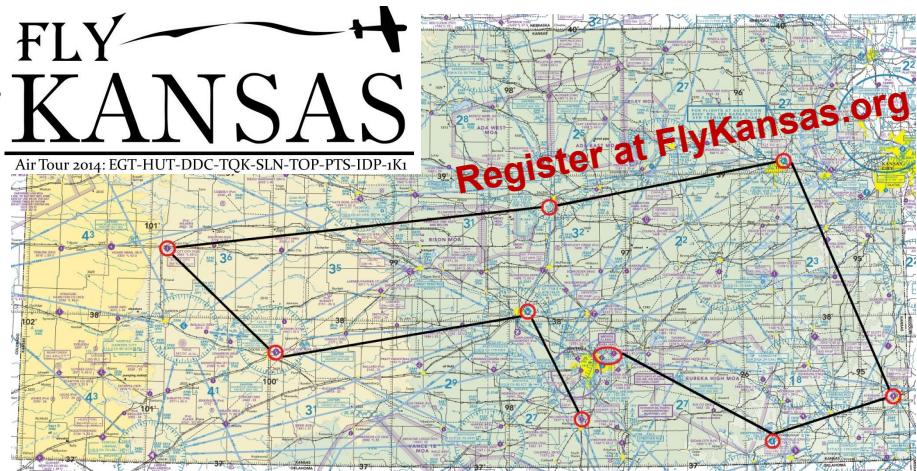
For more information on the event, go to [FlyKansas.org](http://FlyKansas.org) or visit the event Facebook page at [facebook.com/KansasAviationExpo](https://facebook.com/KansasAviationExpo).





Sept. 22 — 26

Sponsorships Available



## From around the world...to the Air Capital of the World

Thursday special: 1 day, 2 Earthrounders

Location: National Center for Aviation Training (NCAT) at the Wichita Jabara Airport (KAAO)

### The Flying Classroom

Thursday, 9/25

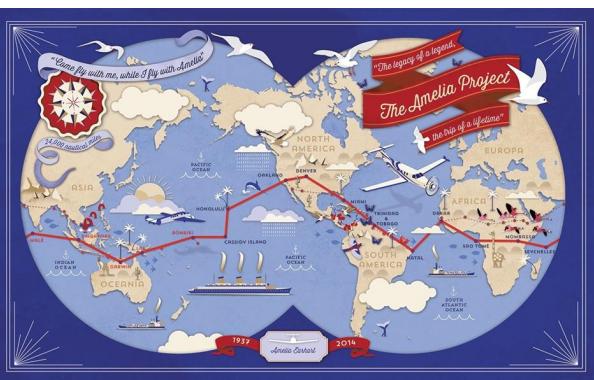
9:30 AM; NCAT at KAAO  
Wichita, KS

Once the youngest man to fly solo around the world, Barrington

Irving is now the leader of Experience Aviation. 400 local high school students will hear his story and learn about aviation careers and endless possibilities with the help of STEM!



Register at  
[FlyKansas.org](http://FlyKansas.org)



### The Signature Event

Thursday, 9/25

6:00 PM; NCAT at KAAO  
Wichita, KS

Amelia Rose Earhart recently became the youngest female pilot to circumnavigate the globe as she recreated her namesake's journey. Hear those stories and how she is inspiring young women everywhere to learn to fly through her Fly with Amelia foundation!

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