



## **Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

### **Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission Awards \$5,000 Aerospace & Aviation Education Grant to FIRST Robotics**

**OKLAHOMA CITY** – Twenty-five organizations were recently awarded Aerospace and Aviation Education Program grants or contracts totaling over \$270,000 from the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission (OAC). The record amount of funds will be used to expose more school-aged children in Oklahoma to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) careers, particularly those in aerospace and aviation. The funding was approved by the Commission at their most recent meeting.

The Commission approved an education contract for the Oklahoma Regional For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics Competition, held in March 28-31, 2018 at the Cox Convention Center. More than 1,200 students in grades 7-12 would compete in the event. Students are required to use STEM principles to design and build their robots, skills that are critical to the future of Oklahoma's aerospace and aviation workforce. Various Oklahoma aerospace companies as well as Tinker Air Force Base mentor and/or assist in sponsorship of FIRST Robotics teams. The requested amount was \$5,000 and the agency staff recommendation was \$5,000.

“OAC has been a long-time community partner with FIRST Robotics through the aviation education grant program, and we look forward to seeing the progress they achieve with their students,” said Catherine Taber, aviation program manager and aviation education coordinator for the Commission.

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*The Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission's mission is to promote aviation, which includes ensuring that the needs of commerce and communities across Oklahoma are met by the state's 109 public airports that comprise the state system, and ensuring the viability of the state's aerospace industry.*