

SESSION 1: **Keynote Speaker**

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CEO, Aerospace Center for Excellence (Ret)



2024 GAA Annual Conference & Expo | Columbus, Ga | October 16 – 18, 2024

AEROSPACE

Center For Excellence

SUN n FUN
AEROSPACE EXPO

RAMUS
SKYLAB
INNOVATION
CENTER

FLORIDA AIR MUSEUM



SUN 'n FUN Through the Years...

- 1975 first Fly-In held on the north side of LAL
- 1977 the Fly-In moved to the southwest corner of LAL
- 1980 the first exhibit building was built
- 1988 first teacher workshops
- 1989 SUN 'n FUN donates \$1,000 to Kathleen High School "Project School Flight"
- 1992 Florida Air Museum was constructed
- 2011 new CFAA High School was constructed and opened
- 2015 Lakeland Aero Club (LAC) hangar was constructed
- 2021 Skylab Innovation Center was completed

Youth Aviation Education has been part of the mission from the early days...



SUN 'n FUN to ACE...

- There were originally two 501(c)(3) not-for-profits that made up SUN 'n FUN
- SUN 'n FUN Fly-In, Inc.
- Florida Air Museum, Inc.
- Today, the organization is operated by the parent company, the Aerospace Center for Excellence (ACE) along with it's subsidiaries...
- SUN 'n FUN Fly-In, Inc
- Florida Air Museum
- ELEVATE

SUN 'n FUN is the annual fundraiser for ACE and our year round youth aviation education programming





AEROSPACE

Center For Excellence



MISSION: ENGAGE, EDUCATE, ACCELERATE
The Next Generation of Aerospace Professionals

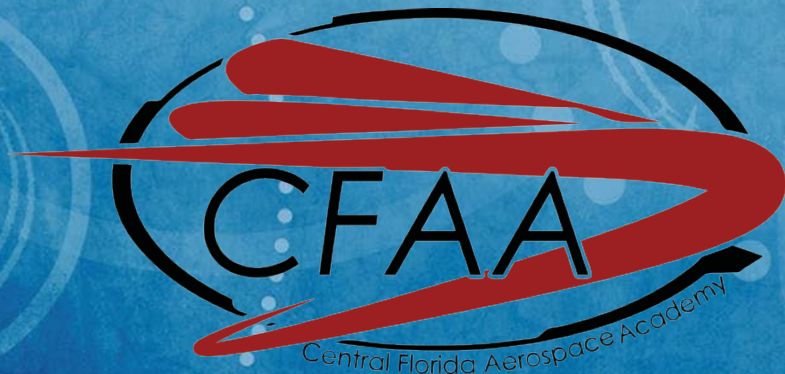
WHAT IS ACE!

- 25-acre campus dedicated to STEM learning and aerospace education.
- Central Florida Aerospace Academy
- Lakeland Aero Club
- Traviss Career College
- Florida Air Museum
- “Ramus” Skylab Innovation Center
- ELEVATE



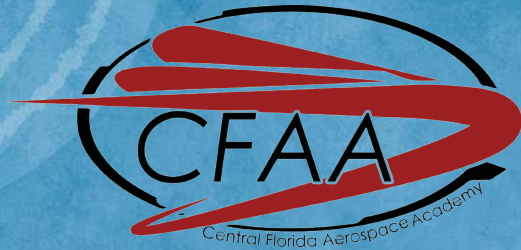
Central Florida Aerospace Academy - Lakeland

- Public High School
- 385 Students (max capacity 499)
- Top 10% Air Force JROTC in U.S.
- Recognized as National Career Academy Coalition Model Academy School
- Utilizing AOPA High School Curriculum



Central Florida Aerospace Academy

CAREER TRACKS



AEROSPACE ENGINEERING

AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGIES (PILOT)

AVIONICS TECHNICIAN

UAS (DRONES)

A & P MECHANIC

Track Selected sophomore year

Business Management will be offered Fall 2022

Scholarship Program

OVER 400K INVESTED ANNUALLY INTO THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

182 PRIVATE PILOTS

2-4 Awarded per month

30-40 in progress on average



62

College
Scholarships

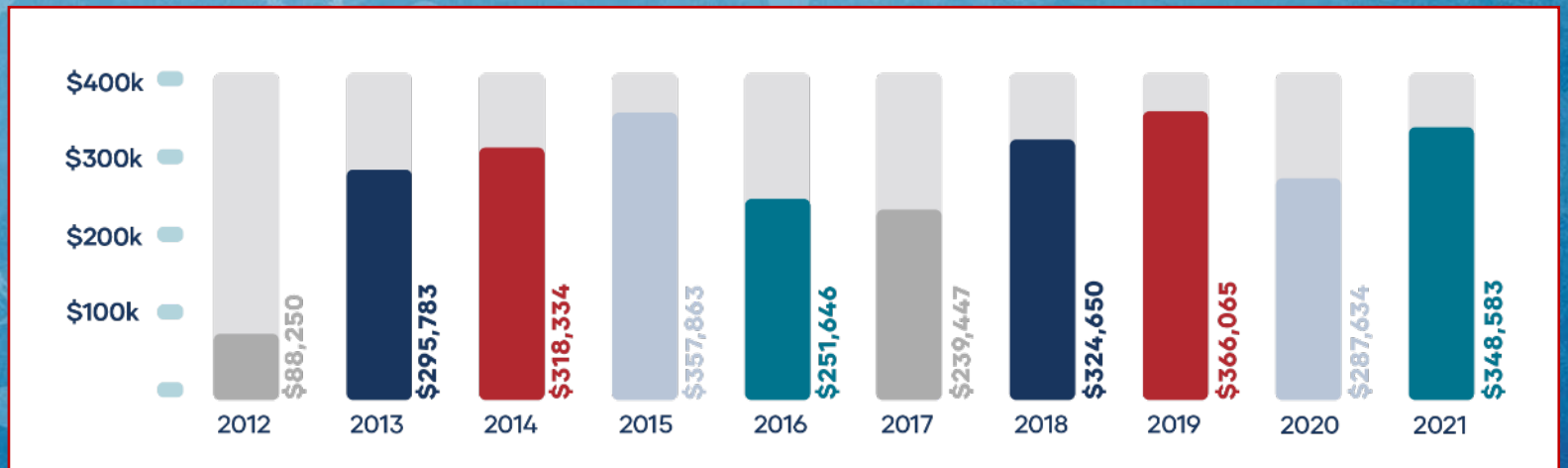
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A&PS in
Progress

**FLIGHT & COLLEGE
SCHOLARSHIPS
FUNDED**

Total: \$3,833,472

85% SUCCESS RATE



AVAILABLE TO ALL CFAA STUDENTS

Central Florida Aerospace Academy – Winter Haven



**Commenced January 2023
with portable classrooms
on Winter Haven Airport**

**Student
Capacity 250**

Polk State College

- Started January 2013 with 9 students.
- As of Spring 2023, 300 students, 162 in pilot pipeline, 40 student graduates this year.
- R-ATP approval for AS and BS programs.
- Operates under voluntary SMS program with an ASAP and student-led Safety Team.
- As of Fall 2023, 153 pilots have entered the workforce.



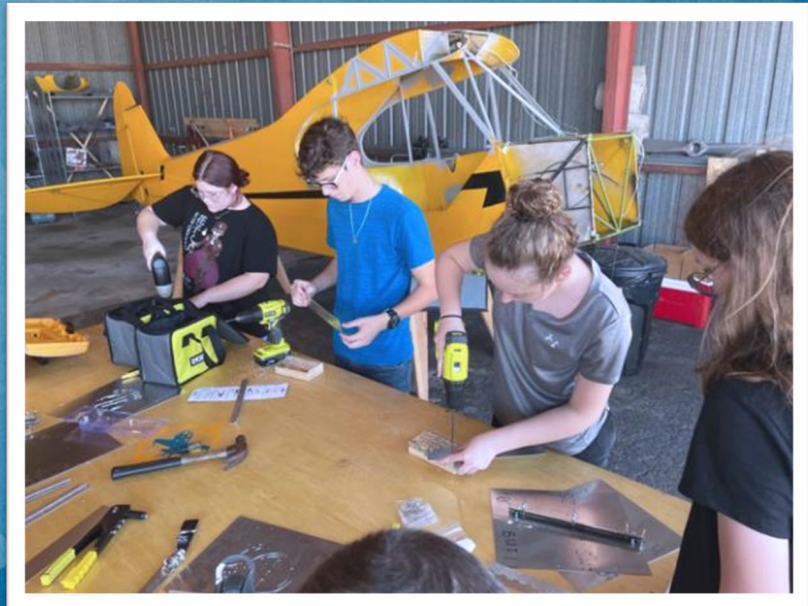
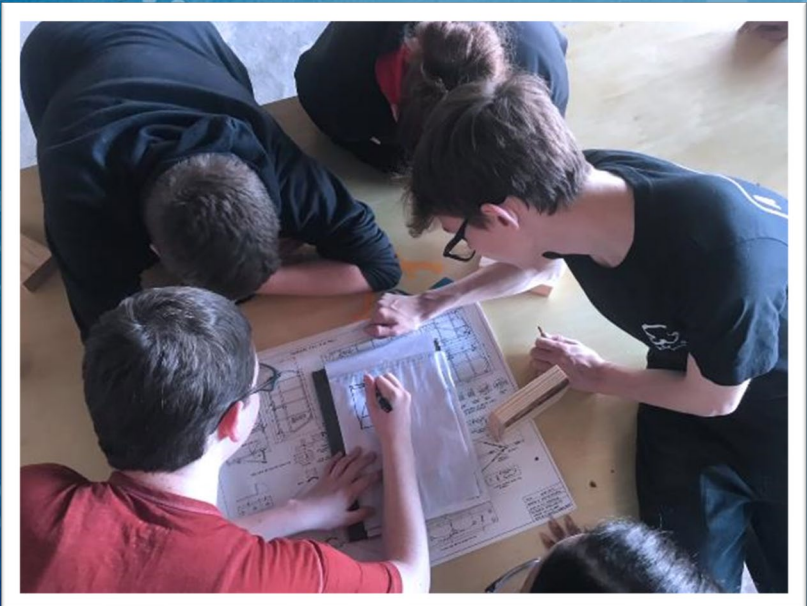
Lakeland Aero Club

- 65-member club ages 14-21
- 5 aircraft owned and operated
- Students maintain aircraft and facilities
 - including the grass runway.
- 5 restoration projects underway
- Volunteer force multiplier



Aspiring Aviators Aero Club

- 30 Students Ages 14-22
- 3 Aircraft restorations
- Single hangar at Winter Haven Airport



Traviss Technical College



Located in ACE Education Corridor on SUN 'n FUN Expo Campus (adjacent to CFAA)

- Over 200 students participated in last 5 years.
- 150 have received certification as A&P Mechanic.

TRAVISS
technical college

Florida Air Museum

- Florida's "Official Aviation Museum and Education Center"
- Hands on interactive STEM based exhibits.
- Designed to appeal to all ages.
- Storytime Tuesdays at 10:00am



Join us for
Story Time
with **ACE** the
Bookworm!

TUESDAYS • 10 AM
at the Florida Air Museum

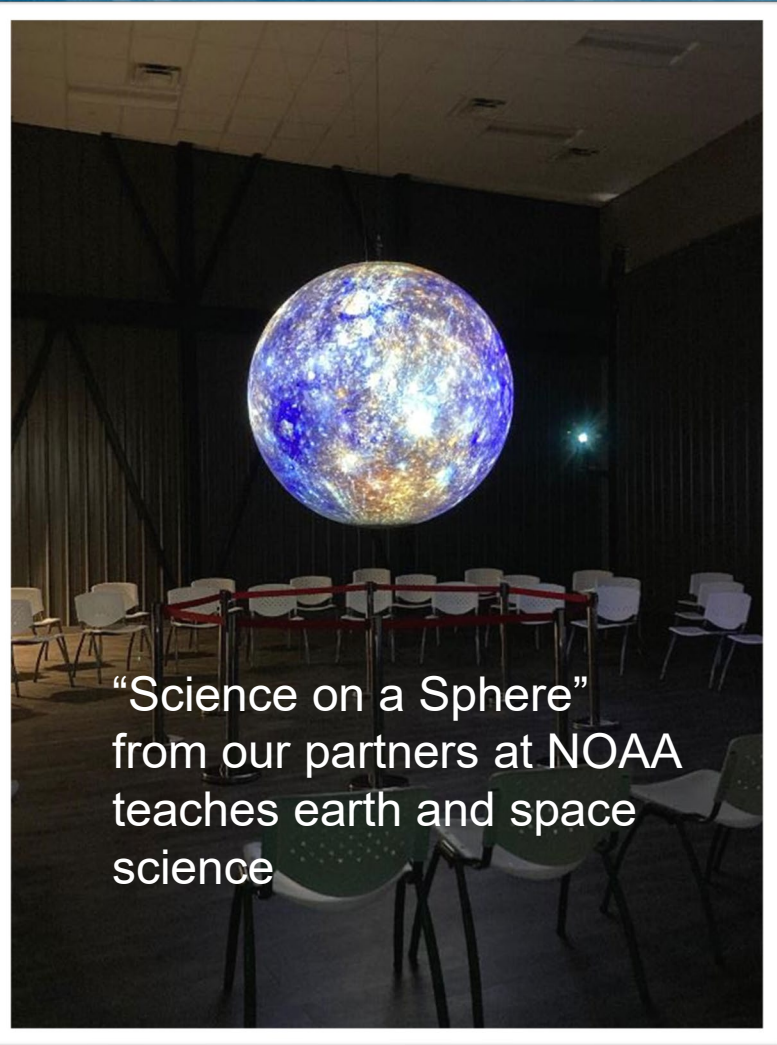
FREE!

The promotional graphic for Story Time features a green caterpillar character named ACE, wearing a brown pilot's cap and goggles, and a red scarf. ACE is holding an open book with a rocket ship on the cover. The background is a light blue sky with white clouds. The text "Join us for Story Time" is prominently displayed in a mix of black and red fonts. Below it, "with ACE the Bookworm!" is written in a smaller black font. At the bottom, "TUESDAYS • 10 AM" is written in large red letters, and "at the Florida Air Museum" is in a smaller red font. A purple banner in the top right corner says "FREE!".

Ramus Skylab Innovation Center



Ramus Skylab Innovation Center



Our Siemens Engineering Lab offers design, build, and test capabilities with Siemens software, 3D printers, and wind tunnels



The Redbird Flight Simulation Lab is a fully functioning simulation classroom.



Coming soon...

- Enhanced Summer Camps 7 to 17
- Enhanced Educational Field Trips in Skylab
- ACEs High achievement program
- After School Program
- New Media Center in Skylab
- Capital campaign for a new multi-purpose A&P facility
- Educational Expansion in Florida Air Museum
 - Storytime
 - Interactive exhibit improvements
 - New exhibits – that you'll have to come to SNF23 to see!





SUN n FUN

AEROSPACE EXPO

April 1-6
2025



Engagement in this event supports
Aerospace Education at the

AEROSPACE
Center For Excellence

TURN UP THE
Fun 51!
AT



SUN n FUN

AEROSPACE EXPO

April 1-6
2025

“Turn Up The Fun At 51”

- Aircraft Types - Homebuilt, Warbirds, Vintage, Light Sport, Military, Seaplanes, Helicopters
- Over 560 Exhibitors
- Blue Angels return in 2025
- Daily air show from 1:00pm to 5:00pm
- Opening night concert
- Wednesday and Saturday night shows are “World Class”
- Sunset Aerial Circus
- The Island returns
- The Sandbar – Collocated with Paradise City
- Future ‘n Flight Plaza



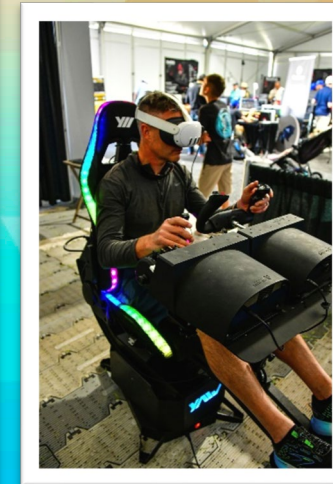
TURN UP THE
Fun 51!
AT 51!

“The Sandbar”



- Collocated with Paradise City
- Food and Beverage
- Shade Tent with picnic tables, umbrellas and benches
- Shower house and comfort station
- Secondary air show viewing area
- Air Show audio pumped into area

- Career Fair
- Junior ACE's
- Innovation Showcase
- Flight Sim Experience
- Forums
- Family Oasis
- International Oasis
- Flight Schools
- Colleges Universities



Thank you!



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ACEedu.org