

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rider Jet Center to Host 18th Annual Aviation Education & Career Expo: Over \$180,000 in Scholarships to Be Awarded

Hagerstown, MD – September 5, 2024 – Rider Jet Center, Paragon Aviation Group and the Former ProJet Aviation, is proud to announce the 18th Annual Aviation Education & Career Expo, scheduled for Friday, November 8th, 2024, at Hagerstown Regional Airport. This premier event aims to ignite the passion for aviation and aerospace careers among students in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

The Expo will bring together over 1,000 students, educators, and parents for a day of exploration and discovery in the dynamic field of aviation. With a focus on students aged 16-22, the event offers an unparalleled opportunity to engage with industry experts and learn about the many high-demand occupations within the sector. This year's Expo is set to award over \$180,000 in scholarships, including monetary, school-specific, and flight training awards.

Attendees will experience a diverse program featuring keynote speakers, live demonstrations, and interactive exhibits from more than 60 aviation organizations. Participants include representatives from the US military, emergency medical airlift services, law enforcement, government agencies, aircraft maintenance and avionics companies, drone operators, flight schools, and more.

Julie O'Brien, Co-founder of the event and a representative of Paragon Aviation Group, shared, "Our theme for this year, 'Love at First Flight,' encapsulates our mission to inspire students through experiences, mentoring, and scholarships. We are incredibly grateful for the support of our sponsors, whose contributions make this event possible."

This Year's Notable Guest Speakers and Demonstrators Include:

- Jessica LeDane and K-9 Anna from Garda Federal World Federal Services
- Vanessa Christie – US Navy Combat Veteran and CEO of Prevailance Aerospace
- John Geltinger, Director, Service Hub Operations – Aircraft Maintenance for NetJets
- Lisa Quinto, Corporate Flight Attendant at TISMA
- Heidi Kemner, FAA Aircraft Accident Investigator
- Crystal Kubeczka, President of Paragon Aviation Group Network
- Shye Gilad, President of former ProJet Aviation
- Ben Rider, Owner of Rider Jet Center

Toth Financial is the premier corporate sponsor for this year's event, generously providing lunch for students and industry participants. Additional corporate and scholarship sponsors include: Aero Elite Flight Training, Airline Pilots Association Int'l, AOPA, Averett University, Avfuel, Aviation Adventures, Aviation Influence, Avyation Labs, Best You/Best Me, Black Women in Aviation, Bravo Flight Training, Career XPL, Commonwealth Digital, Costco, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, First Chime, Frederick Flight Center, General Dynamics, Goose Creek Aviation, LLC, Greater Washington Business Aviation Association, The Hampton Inn, Harris

Teeter, The Hoxton Agency, Imagination Center, Jet Linx Aviation, Leroy W. Homer Jr. Foundation, LIFT Academy, Little Caesar's, Marywood University, Mindstar Aviation, Open Air, National Air Traffic Controllers Association, NetJets, Nulton Aviation Flight Academy, Paragon Aviation Group, Paramount Business Jets, Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics, Rider Jet Center, Saint Francis University, Teamsters Airline Division, The Malinowski Family, Unmanned Safety Institute, Vaughn College of Aeronautics & Technology.

About The Aviation Education & Career Expo: The Aviation Education & Career Expo is recognized as one of the largest and most successful aviation education events in the United States. Since its inception in 2005, the Expo has awarded over \$1.6 million in scholarships to high school and college students pursuing careers in aviation and aerospace. Co-founded by aviation professionals Julie O'Brien and Sarah Thompson, the Expo remains dedicated to helping students explore and embark on rewarding careers in the aviation industry.

For more information about the Aviation Education & Career Expo, please visit: www.projetaviation.com click on "Aviation Expo"