

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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CONGRESS APPROVES \$7 MILLION FOR WSU AVIATION INSTITUTE; DOLE SAYS ACTION REESTABLISHES WICHITA AS WORLD AIR CAPITAL

Washington, DC -- Congress has approved a proposal by Sen. Bob Dole to provide \$7 million for a new aviation institute at Wichita State University. Following passage of the funding proposal in the so-called Continuing Resolution, Dole said the action "will unquestionably help further Wichita's standing as the 'air capital of the world'."

The funds, which will come from the budgets of both the departments of defense and transportation, will be used by WSU to form the Institute for Aviation Research & Development. The institute will concentrate on research, evaluation and development of technologies relating to the needs of commercial and military aviation.

"In the past decade, Wichita State University has spent more than \$44 million in aviation research. This new funding will allow the establishment of a permanent institute which will allow WSU to take a giant leap forward in the increasingly important field of aviation research. I commend WSU for its forward-looking leadership, and for taking the initiative to keep Wichita in the forefront of the aviation industry," said Sen. Dole.

Dole said WSU would establish basic research, safety, productivity, management and training centers. The funding would be used to acquire new facilities for dynamic crash testing, crash simulations, structural design, avionics, artificial intelligence, human factoring, and computer-aided design of aircraft. Dole noted that the research by WSU's institute would have both commercial and military applications.

"In the long run, the result will be stronger, safer and more efficient planes and jets. Given Wichita's history in the field of aviation, it is a perfect fit for Congress to provide the initial funds for an institute at WSU that will enhance air safety and contribute to the betterment of aviation technology. And we are hopeful that the establishment of this important institute can be a catalyst for future positive developments for the Wichita aviation community, whether in expanded air service or in the establishment of future federal aviation programs.

Dole originally announced his proposal for the funding on Sept. 28. At that time, he said "it is crucial that we develop a sustained relationship between research facilities, manufacturing companies, and the government" if the U.S. is to maintain its premier position in aviation. The \$7 million in funds - \$5 million from the Defense Department and \$2 million from the Transportation Department's Federal Aviation Administration - will be matched by private funds raised by WSU.