



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Division of Aeronautics

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To Whom It May Concern:

In 1991, the Colorado Legislature created the Colorado Division of Aeronautics (Division), recognizing the need to “promote the safe operation and accessibility of general aviation and intrastate commercial aviation in this state; that improvement of general aviation and intrastate commercial aviation transportation facilities will promote diversified economic development across the state...” (C.R.S. 43-10-101).

In accomplishing this mission, the Division is also tasked with promoting aviation safety and furthering aviation education statewide. It is with this direction that we offer our strong support for the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) research project being conducted by State of Colorado higher education institutions, Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC) and Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver). Having reviewed the scope and activities of the National Science Foundation (NSF) Advanced Technology in Education (ATE) grant issued to CNCC and MSU Denver, the Division firmly believes this research project merits broad industry engagement and participation in the project activities scheduled.

The NSF ATE grant funds the project activities aimed at assessing the education and training demands of western commercial organizations and governmental agencies having existing or planned UAS operations. The projected results of the project activities should directly inform both higher educational institutions in developing custom UAS educational programs, as well as provide commercial organizations and governmental agencies fundamental input and advisory opportunities in the knowledge, skills, and experience needed in training and educating their potential and future UAS operators.

An important [survey](#) is now available, seeking industry input into the operational and educational needs necessary to develop a successful UAS program at CNCC and MSU Denver. The Colorado Division of Aeronautics strongly encourages industry stakeholders to support and participate in the upcoming project activities, including this survey and future focus groups.

Respectfully,

David R. Ulane, A.A.E.
Aeronautics Director

