



Las Vegas • McCarran International Airport

NEWS RELEASE

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Aviation hopefuls from Rancho High School's magnet program are set to soar following visit to McCarran

LAS VEGAS – More than 20 local 12th-graders from the Rancho High School Aviation Academy on Friday received a boost toward achieving their future career goals during a visit to McCarran International Airport.

In addition to learning from a rare behind-the-scenes tour of the busy airport's facilities, these aspiring Clark County students benefited from personal interaction with nearly 20 members of McCarran's Executive Team, and representatives of Las Vegas-based Allegiant Air. Students were given guidance on prospective career choices, specific job demands, and which courses of study should best prepare them to achieve their goals of someday working in the aviation or aerospace industries. This is the first time McCarran leaders have hosted such an event.

"My father was an educator here in Southern Nevada for decades, and my staff and I have long recognized the important role that education plays in shaping the lives of young people, as well as the communities in which we live," said Randall H. Walker, director of the Clark County Department of Aviation. "The students enrolled in Rancho High School's Aviation Academy represent the best of the best in the valley, and we're proud to donate a little of our time to help these fine young men and women pursue their dreams."

McCarran hosted the Rancho students as part of its yearlong 60th anniversary celebration. Additional airport-sponsored community outreach efforts include Junior Aviators, an instructional program geared toward local elementary school pupils, as well as last fall's middle school art contest that resulted in a special 2008 calendar highlighting the history of aviation in Southern Nevada.

The Rancho Aviation Academy is a magnet program that draws talented students from all across the Clark County School District. From their freshman year on, enrolled young men and women pursue a challenging course of study that specifically prepares them for careers in the aerospace and aviation industries. Most students obtain a private pilot's license prior to graduation. The three instructors at Rancho's Aviation Academy include a pair of former U.S. Air Force pilots, and a certified flight instructor. Along with decades of combined teaching experience, each holds either a master's degree in aeronautical science or a bachelor's degree in aviation engineering. Participants on Friday's tour were selected for their outstanding achievement in the classroom.

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