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# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Aviation Day returns April 22 to Purdue Airport

WEST LAFAYETTE, IN – The Purdue Polytechnic Institute’s School of Aviation and Transportation Technology announced Purdue Aviation Day will take place April 22, 2017, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Purdue University Airport. The event is free, and the public is invited.

Attendees may fly in, drive in, or walk in to celebrate Purdue aviation and the School of Aviation and Transportation Technology.

“Our theme for 2017 is ‘An Industry That Works.’ Our goal is to make this year’s event a statement of our school’s dedication and long-term impact on the aviation industry,” said Austin Decker, operations director for the event and an unmanned aerial systems major.

PSA Airlines, the presenting sponsor for 2017, will display the CRJ-200 aircraft. Other airlines scheduled to attend include GoJet, SkyWest Airlines, Horizon and Piedmont.

Keynote speakers will include Les Abend, captain for American Airlines and aviation analyst for CNN, and Ian Kirby, aircraft engineer and former pilot for British Airways. Additional representatives from American Airlines and the National Air Traffic Controllers Association will also be speaking.

The event will include interactive activities for all ages, historical exhibits, and a variety of aircraft on display.

Revived in 2016 for the first time in 105 years, the school is now establishing Purdue Aviation Day as an annual celebration of aviation. Last year, the event attracted approximately 2,100 people.

“Community interest last April far exceeded our expectations, so we are very excited to organize Purdue Aviation Day again,” Decker said. “The School of Aviation and Transportation Technology had hosted much smaller fly-in events for alumni in recent years, but none compared in magnitude. Purdue Aviation Day is open to everybody, including families with children. We hope even more people will come this year.”

A full schedule of events, travel directions, and parking instructions are available at *polytechnic.purdue.edu/aviationday.* Photographs and video from last year’s event are available at *polytechnic.purdue.edu/newsroom/media-room.*

(more)

**About the School of Aviation and Transportation Technology**

The School of Aviation and Transportation Technology at Purdue University offers an innovative

education and training model with a curriculum based on industry trends and opportunities. Students can work directly with industry partners on campus and on site, which provides them with highly marketable skills. The school offers seven majors: aeronautical engineering technology, aerospace financial analysis, airline management and operations, airport management and operations, aviation management, professional flight, and unmanned aerial systems. The school is one of seven academic areas within the Purdue Polytechnic Institute at Purdue University.

**About Purdue Polytechnic**

The Purdue Polytechnic Institute is one of 10 academic colleges at Purdue University, offering undergraduate and graduate degrees in a wide range of disciplines: aviation, computing, construction management, engineering technology, technology leadership, and technology education. In addition to Purdue University’s main campus in West Lafayette, Indiana, Purdue Polytechnic offers select degree programs in nine Indiana communities.

The academic programs combine theory-based applied learning, team-based projects, integrated humanities studies, competency-based credentialing, and a series of experiential components such as industry-sponsored senior capstone projects, internships, global immersions, and certification-earning activities. The Polytechnic learning experience is designed to produce graduates who not only have deep technical knowledge and applied skills in their chosen discipline, but also possess problem-solving, critical thinking, communications, and leadership skills sought by industries and communities.

Through the vision of Purdue University, the Purdue Polytechnic Institute, and the City of Indianapolis, the first Purdue Polytechnic High School will open in August, 2017, in downtown Indianapolis, Indiana, with the mission to offer the best and most beneficial educational experience for students who want to pursue high-tech and STEM-related careers.

Whether delivering a transformed learning experience to produce industry-ready graduates who have the skills for today’s economy or conducting use-inspired research to advance the evolution of technology and solve real-world challenges, the Purdue Polytechnic Institute aims to be a global leader.

Purdue Polytechnic was founded in 1964 as Purdue University’s School of Technology. It was renamed College of Technology in 2005, and in 2015, the Board of Trustees approved its current name in support of the college’s transformation and as part of President Mitch Daniels’ *Purdue Moves* initiative.

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