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# Second Purdue Aviation Day planned 105 years after first

WEST LAFAYETTE, IN - Student leaders are planning an aviation celebration April 16, 2016, at the Purdue University Airport, and the world is invited.

The second Purdue Aviation Day will take place 105 years after the first one. Attendees can fly in, drive in or even walk in to celebrate the past, present and future of Purdue aviation and the School of Aviation and Transportation Technology.

"We think this is the perfect way to celebrate the school’s name change, enhance partnerships with industry, show our appreciation for the local community and inspire young aviators,” said Austin Decker, operations director for the event and an unmanned aerial systems major. The student organizers plan to make Aviation Day an annual event.

The event will include interactive activities for all ages, historical exhibits, and a variety of aircraft on display. A full schedule of events is listed on the event [web page](https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/schools/aviation-and-transportation-technology/purdue-aviation-day).

The School of Aviation and Transportation Technology, formerly known as the Department of Aviation Technology, has hosted much smaller alumni fly-in events in recent years. Leaders from the aviation-related student organizations wanted to create a larger event that would showcase the growth of the program to alumni and beyond.

The [1911 Purdue Aviation Day](http://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/purduetoday/didyouknow/2015/Q4/did-you-know-first-planes-on-campus.html) attracted nearly 17,000 spectators to watch two bi-planes in action on a grass landing strip, which is now the location of Elliott Hall of Music.

Republic Airways is the presenting sponsor for the event. The Indianapolis-based regional carrier is the world’s largest operator of Embraer aircraft, providing code-share partner service to American Airlines, Delta Air Lines and United Airlines with more than 1,000 daily departures to 110 cities in the U.S., Canada and the Caribbean.

**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.

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**Caption for** [**1911PurdueAviationDay.jpg**](https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/sites/default/files/1911PurdueAviationDay.jpg)

Aviation Day on June 13, 1911, drew a crowd of 17,000 to Purdue's campus to see two planes take flight from Stuart Field, now the site of Elliott Hall of Music. (Photo courtesy of Purdue University Archives and Special Collections)