

Cleared to Dream

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

ENGAGING STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS: **ALPA AND EMBRY-RIDDLE REACH AN UNDERSTANDING**

By **John Perkinson**, Staff Writer

Nurturing ALPA's future members is an important aspect of the union's foundation. To better reach potential airline pilots, ALPA has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University at the Prescott, Ariz., and Daytona Beach, Fla., campuses. This allows ALPA members to serve as a resource for future pilots and highlights the importance of professionalism, preparation, and mentorship as "essential elements in the educational foundation of a professional pilot."

"The MOU bridges the gap between academia and industry," says Capt. Dave Ryter (American Eagle), ALPA's

FAA INVOLVEMENT

Capt. John Prater, ALPA's president; Capt. John Sluys (Alaska), ALPA's Professional Development Group (PDG) chairman; and Keith Hagy, director of ALPA's Engineering and Air Safety Department, met this summer with Randy Babbitt, the FAA's administrator, and Deborah Hersman, the NTSB chairman, to discuss the Embry-Riddle MOU and to encourage government endorsement and support. Sluys serves as co-chair of the FAA's Flight Crewmember Mentoring, Professional Development, and Leadership Aviation Rulemaking Committee, which appropriately complements his PDG work. Babbitt has asked the ARC to develop procedures for establishing pilot mentoring programs for newly employed flightcrew members, establishing pilot professional development committees, and establishing training programs to accommodate different levels of flight experience and leadership.

ALPA representatives are also working closely with the University Aviation Association and the Aviation Accreditation Board Int'l, organizations that promote collegiate aviation education.—JWP

Education Committee chairman. "It allows us to offer advice about ways to structure on-campus programs to better reflect what we do in the industry."

Earlier this year, a group of ALPA members spent time with Daytona Beach campus professors and students to talk about a wide range of airline piloting issues. During a focus group session, the students and ALPA pilots discussed ways to engage the younger generation. The dialogue led to the creation of the Airline Career Education (ACE) Club, which allows students to initiate projects and explore a broad range of interests, using ALPA members for practical guidance and feedback. "This exchange was the groundwork for our



In January a group of pilots from ALPA's Education Committee visited hundreds of students as guest lecturers at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. During a panel discussion, Committee members answered questions from students on careers in aviation.

arrangement with Embry-Riddle," says Capt. John Sluys (Alaska), ALPA's Professional Development Group (PDG) chairman.

"Obviously, we are interested in establishing MOUs with other schools," says Ryter, who notes that members of the Education Committee will visit the University of North Dakota and Southern Illinois University in November. "These kinds of programs are instrumental in allowing us to work with educators to ensure that their curriculum is both pertinent and comprehensive."

In addition to an ACE Club, the MOU calls for routine visits from pilot representatives of ALPA's Education Committee,

OTHER NEWS

ALPA's participation on Embry-Riddle Industrial Advisory Committees, Embry-Riddle's reciprocal involvement with ALPA's Education Committee, and several other opportunities. ALPA's participation in the MOU is clearly supported by the 2008 ALPA Board of Directors strategic plan to actively engage future members and become an industry partner with educators. 

ALPA's Education Committee has revamped its clearedtodream.org website, which contains information for young pilots about the Association, becoming an airline pilot, ACE Clubs, a calendar of upcoming events, and other important resources. The website also provides a forum for graduate students, including those at Embry-Riddle, to post aviation-related surveys, which the five ALPA Education Committee members and approximately 570 Committee pilot volunteers can respond to.—JWP

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