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Editor's note: Photos available upon request

SPENCER FLIGHT & EDUCATION CENTER BREAKS GROUND

Scott City, Kan. – After several months of planning and fundraising, the Spencer Flight & Education Center (SFEC) officially broke ground last weekend on October 30th, 2011. The intimate ceremony was held at the center's future site at the Scott City Municipal Airport in Scott City.

It was attended by nearly 40 individuals, including the Spencer and Mitchell families, the SFEC Board of Directors, Kansas Department of Transportation Director of Aviation Ed Young, Senator Ralph Ostmeyer and Representative Don Hineman.

“The wonderful weather matched the attitudes of those in attendance,” says Brian Vulgamore, SFEC Chairman. “For the friends of the Spencers and the volunteers that have worked on this center for the past six months, the groundbreaking provided the first tangible evidence that something beautiful was going to be created. It will not only commemorate everything the Spencers meant to Scott City, but also provide a unique education center for all of Western Kansas.”

The SFEC is being established in memory of Dylan, Amy, Chase and Ansley Spencer of Scott City, who were killed in a small plane crash near Topeka over Easter weekend 2011. The center is being funded by a \$108,000 grant from the Kansas Department of Transportation and more than \$300,000 in private donations that have been collected with the assistance of \$179,000 in tax credits awarded towards the project by the Kansas Department of Commerce.

As a way to honor the Spencers' passion for both aviation as well as education, the SFEC's mission is to actively promote the safety and success of Western Kansas pilots and passengers by providing a local venue for high-quality flight instruction in addition to various educational programs and resources for individuals of all ages. More information about the center can be found at www.spencerflightcenter.com.

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