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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Editor's note:** Photos available upon request

**SPENCER FLIGHT & EDUCATION CENTER TAKES FORM, WELCOMES PILOTS AND YOUTH**

Scott City, Kan. – Only seven months following its ground breaking, the Spencer Flight & Education Center (SFEC) is quickly on its way in preparation for a grand opening in September. The first center of its kind in the region, the SFEC has already started to bustle with activity from both pilots and youth.

The month of May saw the first of the SFEC's youth programs. The Scott City Elementary School's SCORE program created an "Aviation Club" that explored the world of flying and culminated with a trip to the SFEC and time in the simulator. That was followed by first- and third-grade field trips at the center. Kids had the opportunity to learn about the science of flight and try out the center's simulator during the day's activities.

Local pilots also began test-flying the SFEC's Redbird FX simulator in May. The center currently offers four different aircraft setups on the simulator – including a Beechcraft Bonanza A36, Beechcraft Baron 58, Cessna 172 and Cessna 206 - with the option of purchasing others in the future. The simulator will be made available to any interested flight instructors and pilots in June by appointment. Those interested in scheduling simulator time can contact SFEC Board Chairman Brian Vulgamore at 620-874-5075 or Weston Thompson with Scott City Aviation at 620-872-5378. Introductory pricing will begin at \$60/hour while blocks of time will be available at lower rates.

"The increased interest in aviation spawned by the SFEC has created an incredible opportunity for flight instructors in western Kansas," says Vulgamore. "The SFEC is proving to be an invaluable resource, and we want to make sure that it reaches its full potential. In the upcoming months, our primary focus is to reach out to area flight instructors and orient them with the center."

Grand opening for the SFEC is scheduled for the afternoon of Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at the Scott City Municipal Airport. The ceremony will be held in conjunction with Scott City's annual Showdown on the Plains BBQ Challenge & Air Show that brings in thousands of spectators each year ([www.showdownbbq.com](http://www.showdownbbq.com)).

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. A 501(c)3 public charity, it houses the only full-motion flight simulator between Denver and Salina – a Redbird FMX – and hosts aviation-related courses and programs for both adults and youth. The center was 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. More information can be found at [www.spencerflightcenter.com](http://www.spencerflightcenter.com).

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