



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2479

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

This project will increase the number of students enrolled in the Northwest Florida State College (NWFSC) – College of Aviation pilot training program and increase student throughput. NWFSC College of Aviation will be recognized as a best in class flight school nationally through increased notoriety for the use of cutting-edge technology in flight training all while producing a higher quality pilot than competing flight schools that will drive priority placement of students.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	639,472
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	639,472

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	639,472	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	639,472	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future funding likely to be requested?

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?



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If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

13. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Annual salary for one full time on-site technician will be used to support maintenance of simulators, student assistance in using the simulators, assisting the instructors with extracting data from the simulators to use in student performance assessments, and assisting with developing training scenarios within the simulator.	178,003
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Equipment funds will be used to procure four immersive training devices (VR flight simulators) that will be integrated into NWFSC pilot training curriculum to increase pilot performance, provide for more efficient production of pilots, and decrease training time. NWFSC is providing the devices and software licenses, however the aircraft models are subject to change based on the college's needs.	461,469
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		639,472

14. Program Performance

a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?



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Funds will be used to create four immersive training devices (VR flight simulators) that will be integrated into pilot training curriculum at Northwest Florida State College. This will increase pilot performance, provide for more efficient production of pilots, and decrease training time. Vertex will provide devices and software licenses; however the aircraft models are subject to change based on the college's needs.

b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

Students who attend NWFSC College of Aviation will have access to four state of the art virtual reality flight simulators that few students will ever have access to in a civilian flight school today. This level of fidelity of flight training will be sought out by others outside of the community, bringing in more dollars locally. There will be the need to hire more instructors, creating more jobs. The college will hire one full time simulation support specialist to stand up and support the devices.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

Citizens will have access to the highest fidelity pilot training in the world, parents, children, etc.

d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

Approximately 100 per year: high school, college, and beyond aged students seeking their pilots license.

e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?

Through US DoD contracts, Vertex Solutions ITDs have proven to improve training proficiency by 15%, reduce time to solo flight by 70%, reduce training time by 40%, and reduce flight hours needed in the actual aircraft by 19%. This is measured through a learning management system where data can be extracted from the ITD or monitor in real time. Through this data and the processes put in place that line up with existing curriculum will set a benchmark and then assess how students improve training at incremental marks, e.g. 6, 9, 12 month intervals. Vertex is partnered with Republic Airways, LIFT Academy to provide ITDs in support of their flight training program and the college is working together on FAA certification of these devices. The college is also in discussions with LIFT to partner in bringing their students through the NWFSC aviation program which has potential to double student enrollment. This is tracked through high-wage job creation and completed certifications.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for the contract?

Return of funds to the state department that distributed the funds.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

16. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)



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- Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name **Last Name**

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number