

SUBJECT: Aerospace Education Council (AEC) 2019 Program Review

This review and the proposals contained are recommendations to the Finance Committee and the EXCOM in preparing the AFA 2020 budget. Last year our organization began to reverse the trend of reduced funding for Aerospace Education Programs with the increase in the Pitsenbarger Awards program (\$26,600). While the AEC will continue to work with our national staff to pursue donations to fund program increases, it is important that AFA reinforce its 501 (C) 3 status as an Aerospace Education organization. Our AE outreach programs all help the field to expose and education the American public to the critical need to sustain the best, most dominant Air Force in the world.

1. Scholarships

<u>Name</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Supporting Funds</u>	<u>2019 Apps</u>	<u>2018 Apps</u>	<u>2017 Apps</u>
Burgstein	\$1,000 (1)	\$12,423.00 (R)	146	79	53
Callahan	\$1,000 (1)	\$220,525.00 (E)	27	17	24
Spencer	\$5,000 (3)	\$538,949.00 (E)	34	18	31
Ferretti	\$5,000 (1)	\$381,260.00 (E)	37	23	21
Muellner	\$5,000 (2)	\$201,384.00 (R)	70	61	51
Spouse/Donley	\$2,500 (2)	\$5,000.00 (B)	51	68	56
Lindsey (1 st Yr)	\$2,500 (1)	~\$150,000 (E)	139		

Notes: (R) Restricted (E) Endowed (B) Budgeted. The Burgstein family continues to donate \$1,000.00 per year. George Muellner instructed the staff not to make his donation an endowment. Four Spouse scholarships were awarded in 2018 and 3 in 2019 due to donations from the field for additional scholarships. The Donleys' continue to donate \$1,000.00 per year to support the program. The scholarship programs do pay overhead costs each year. All but one scholarship (Spouse/Donley) are self-sustaining.

Recommendations: (1) We should contact Bonnie and Jim Callahan and recommend the award be raised to \$2,000.00. (2) The Spouse/Donley program should be returned to the 2015 level of 12 scholarships at \$2,500.00 each. We would need to increase budgeted funds by \$25,000.00 per year plus additional for overhead that is not covered by the Donley's funds. This permitted AFA to award one scholarship per MAJCOM to include the ANG and Reserve Command. This would permit the Chairman to personally contact the MAJCOM Commanders regarding the awards and keep AFA's family emphasis before Air Force senior leadership. (3) The remaining scholarships should continue to be sustained.

2. Grants

CAP: Up to 2016 we supported 90 grants at \$250.00. The CAP judiciously awarded all grants each year and these grants predominately allowed units to procure: (1) supplies to support high altitude balloon launches, (2) transportation to Aviation Museums and Science Centers, (3) rockets and motors to support earning the Rocketry Badge and (4) items to build and fly UAVs. We currently support 40 grants for a total of \$10,000.00. We can restore the program for an investment of \$12,500.00. This would reach approximately an additional 14,000 CAP partners.

AFJROTC: We have supported 58 grants at \$250.00. There are 885 AFJROTC units and there are no funds available for them to have field trips or purchase equipment for their activities such as color guard and drill teams. Items funded in the past have been bus rental to visit Air Force Bases and flags, rifles and flag support equipment for color guards. Currently we fund 28 and \$7,500.00 would return the program to 58 which would impact approximately 6,000 cadets.

Educator: Our current program supports 40 \$500.00 grants. This past year we received 80 complete applications for these funds. Teachers use these funds to procure STEM teaching aids to improve the quality of instruction and student interest in their programs. In the past we have averaged 105 applications. Expanding this program is in the best interest of our Air force and Nation as a whole.

Chapter Matching: Historically we had \$5,000.00 for chapters to use with matching funds up to \$500.00 to support local programs. This program for whatever reason became underutilized we zeroed it out in 2017. The program can remain dormant until a reasonable demand is displayed by the field.

Recommendations: (1) Fund CAP Grants to support 90 grants per year. (2) Fund AFJROTC grants to support 58 grants, about 7% of total units. (3) Sustain Educator Grants at current level. Consider increasing program in 2021. (4) Keep Chapter Matching Grants in dormant status.

3. Teacher of the Year

This one of our strongest programs and we are fortunate to have a national sponsor in Rolls Royce. Every AFA Chapter can support a TOY. Last year we had 65 Chapter TOYs. This is down from our peak year of 2015 when we had 180 but we also supported 2 per chapter at that time. We had 27 states support TOYs and one national TOY selected from this group. Total program cost has averaged \$55,000.00. We need to engage the field and encourage more units to participate in the program. It is worth noting that 20 additional awards were purchased by chapters. This year our 2018 TOY will attend the Dayton Aerospace Educator's Camp on scholarship from the camp organization with AFA paying only the airfare. The Camp has given us a slot for next year on the same financial basis. This will give our program and AFA significant national recognition. We need to expand that recognition by sponsoring our 2019 TOY's participation in national aerospace education educator's conferences

Recommendations: (1) Add a TOY chat room to the AFA web site. (2) Add visits to the Congressman in the TOY's state and to the DOD STEM offices during annual Symposium. (3) We need to fund 2019 TOY for at least one AE conference in 2020. The estimated cost is \$1,200.00 inclusive.

4. Awards

Pitsenbarger: Our single program focused on the enlisted force. There was strong reaction from the field when we had to cut back the program in 2016. We had protests and frustrated questions from EUCOM and ACC Headquarters. This year's plus up of \$25,000.00 was very well received by the field. An issue we detected in the review is that not all Pitsenbarger Awards are being requested by some locations. We are in the process of contacting all base education officers and updating them on the increased opportunity for awards.

AFA Martin Harris Outstanding Cadet Award (AFROTC): This award is presented to the top cadet in each AFRJTC Detachment. There are 144 presented annually and the program is sponsored by the Harris family (\$5,000.00). There is a restricted account that produces the funds.

CAP and JROTC Outstanding Cadet Awards: This award is presented to the top cadet in each unit/squadron. We presented 1126 medals in 2018. The individuals exposed to these awards number over 100,000.

5. StellarXplorers (STLX)

This has been an independently funded program since its inception, no AFA organizational funds have been used to date. The program has paid (contributed) over \$122K to AFA National indirect expenses, despite it not being a "HQ" program. STLX was started at the 2014 request of the Secretary of the Air Force. The program has had steady growth since 2015 from 5 teams for the proof of concept to 216 in 2018/19, approximately 900 students plus 360 coaches and mentors. It is important to note that in 2018 approximately 50% of the participants were ethnic minorities and 34% female. STLX has the potential of having strong national impact on the nation's space program. It may be time to consider investing some AFA funds to underline organizational support and perhaps entice a stronger response from donors to include a total program sponsor.

6. CyberPatriot (CP)

CP has been an incredible success gaining national publicity and is having national impact on cyber security. We are fortunate to have very strong sponsorship. In 2018 we had 6,387 competing teams exposing approximately 32,000 students and over 12,000 coaches and mentors. In a recent survey of CP alumni 87% indicated that they were pursuing a 4-year college degree (national average 44%) and 76% of those were majoring in STEM programs (national average 18%). CP is clearly our flagship Aerospace Education program.

7. Arnold Air Society (AAS) & Silver Wings (SW)

For Academic Year 2018 AAS had 131 Squadrons with 2,975 members. SW had 38 Chapters with 518 members. All units are imbedded in AFROTC Detachments (144 total Dets) across the country. The number of Dets is controlled by Congress. There is an active AAS Squadron at the USAFA. All students are members of AFA and they paid \$71,480.00 in dues the past year. In a review completed 3 years ago AFA had 63 Chapters located near AFROTC Detachments. That number can change based upon activations and deactivations

during the year. For example, Richmond's AFA Chapter works with UVA and Roanoke AFA with VMI and VA Tech. AAS & SW is the strongest source of new college graduate members, and they have alumni throughout our organization, many in leadership positions. Four students a year are summer interns at AFA National. The Executive Director of AAS & SW projects a 5% growth in membership for 2019.

SUMMARY

STLX and CP are making money for AFA and are key programs getting our name and message out to the non-choir public. Our Aerospace Education programs experienced tough reductions in helping to balance the budgets of 2016-2018. It is a basic responsibility of AFA to fund and support our national AE programs. AFA needs a Development Team and plan that includes raising funds for AE programs. This year our 2018 TOY will attend the Dayton Aerospace Educator's Camp on scholarship from the camp organization with AFA paying for only the airfare. The Camp has given us a slot for next year on the same financial basis. This will give our program and AFA significant national recognition. We need to expand this recognition by sponsoring our 2019 TOY's participation in national aerospace education educator's conferences. We have built annual sponsorships for over \$110,000.00 to help finance AE programs. For a small increase (\$35,000.00), we can restore the Donley Spouse Scholarship program and boost our CAP and JRAFROTC assistance to more significant and meaningful level; thus helping the field outreach programs and ability to spread our message of being a key Air Force family advocacy organization.

Jim Hannam
Vice Chairman of the Board, Aerospace Education