

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Media contact: Willie Turner
(650) 654-0200 x 204
willie@hiller.org

Hiller Aviation Museum Honored With Excellence in Museum Education Award

*California Association of Museums and State Superintendent of
Public Instruction Jointly Honor Museum's Aero Design Program*

SAN CARLOS --- Hiller Aviation Museum announced today that its Aero Design Challenge has been selected to receive the Superintendent's Award for Excellence in Museum Education in recognition for outstanding achievement among California museums that serve K-12 students and/or educators.

"We are delighted to receive this award recognizing the quality educational programming offered by Hiller Aviation Museum," said Jeffery Bass, president and CEO of Hiller Aviation Museum. "Our Aero Design Challenge is a premier STEM experience that has served over 2,500 local students."

Hosted annually by the Hiller Aviation Museum since 2013 and sponsored by local technology companies Peaxy and SAP, the Aero Design Challenge provides middle school students with an opportunity to work in small teams to solve a real-world technology challenge in which they conduct design, prototyping, and engineering activities.

This year's challenge was glider flight, in which students planned, built, and tested a glider designed to cover the maximum possible distance following a launch with a calibrated amount of energy.

"The Aero Design Challenge allows students to work collaboratively to conduct inquiry-based learning activities that apply science concepts and subjects they study in the classroom with their application in the wider world," Bass said. "Students work with peers, educators, and volunteer mentors to realize a vision or to solve a problem using technology to improve people's lives."

The Superintendent's Awards for Excellence in Museum Education Competition recognizes the outstanding achievements in California museum programs that serve K-12 students and/or educators. The competition is the joint project of the sponsors, California Association of Museums and the Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, with scoring based on categories of program design, evidence of excellence, planning/evaluation, and innovation. Six museums will be presented with the award at the California Association of Museums 6th Annual Luncheon in Palm Springs on Tuesday, February 6, 2018.

More information about the 2018 CAM Awards can be viewed here:

<https://www.calmuseums.org/superintendentsawards>

Hiller Aviation Museum has 108,000 visitors each year including more than 47,000 youth. Core programs for youth are based on state and national academic standards and support K-12 school curricula in history, science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), including interactive, hands-on programs developed in partnership with NASA.

The museum makes it possible for any school field trip group to visit by providing fee waivers for low income institutions and transportation reimbursement.

The Hiller Aviation Museum is a Smithsonian Affiliate. It opened in 1998 by helicopter designer and inventor Stanley Hiller Jr. and features more than 50 aircraft from over a century of aviation history. Since then, the museum has had more than 1.5 million visitors. The Hiller Aviation Museum is a 501(c)(3) California nonprofit Public Benefit organization.

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