TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
3100 CLEBURNE STREET • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77004

713-313-7011

AVIATION SCIENCE MANAGEMENT
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING
AND TECHNOLOGY
OFFICE: 713-313-6837; FAX: 713-313-1821

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Dear Texas Southern University Board of Regents,

Texas Southern University Aviation Program is the owner of two 2014 Redbird flight simulators, each originally valued at approximately $80,000. Following recent discussions with Redbird, the estimated current value of both simulators has been reassessed to range between $40,000 and $50,000, reflecting both usage and updated market considerations.

In alignment with the university's mission to support community engagement, educational access, and workforce development, the Aviation Program has elected to donate these two simulators to nonprofit organizations that offer Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)-focused curricula. By reallocating these resources, Texas Southern University aims to extend the impact of aviation training tools beyond the and into the broader community, particularly to organizations that may not otherwise have access to advanced simulation technology.

It is important to note that these simulators are no longer aligned with the Aviation Program's current training fleet and curriculum, which are centered on the Diamond DA42 and Cirrus SR20 platforms. As a result, the simulators cannot be effectively integrated into ongoing training operations or support continued learning within TSU's updated instructional framework.

These simulators will provide nonprofit partners with the ability to introduce students to foundational aviation concepts, including flight principles, navigation, and aviation systems, through hands-on, experiential learning. This initiative is designed to inspire early interest in aviation careers, strengthen STEM pathways, and support the development of a diverse and well-prepared future workforce in the aviation industry.

Texas Southern University Aviation Program anticipates making the simulators available to selected nonprofit organizations as early as July 2026. This timeline aligns with the anticipated arrival and acceptance of new, upgraded simulators scheduled for September 2026, ensuring continuity and enhancement of training capabilities within the Aviation Program.

Through this initiative, Texas Southern University continues to demonstrate its commitment to academic excellence, community partnership, and innovation in aviation education, while creating meaningful opportunities for students and organizations across the region.

Best,

Dr. Terence H. Fontaine
Executive Director of Aviation