

OU AWARDED \$20 MILLION FOR FAA TRAINING

From Oklahoma University

■(NORMAN) The University of Oklahoma College of Continuing Education has been awarded a 4½-year Federal Aviation Administration Air Traffic Instructional Services contract valued at approximately \$20 million.

Through the award, which continues more than 25 years of partnership between the FAA and OU, the university will assist the FAA in providing air traffic control training by supporting instructional, educational and programming services at the FAA Academy at the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center in Oklahoma City.

OU collaborated with the American Systems Corporation (ASC), another provider of instructional development and delivery services to the FAA to successfully compete for the Air Traffic Instructional Services contract.

The FAA contract marks the third major award to the OU College of Continuing Education since October. Since that time, the College has received a \$19 million award from the U.S. Department of Education to form a regional educational resource center and a \$45 million contract from the U.S. Postal Service to provide instruction and technical assistance at the USPS's sole technical training center in Norman.

"The awarding of this major training contract to our University of Oklahoma College of Continuing Education demonstrates once again that OU is a major player in attracting federal contracts, whether for training our nation's postal workers, or, as in this case, training our country's air traffic controllers," said OU President David Boren.

With the new contract, educational programs provided by OU will have trained more than 38,500 air traffic controllers and other FAA personnel since the 1981 initiation of the Air Traffic Instructional Services program. The total awards to OU during this period have exceeded \$200 million.

The FAA Academy is the primary provider of air traffic control training in the United States and a substantive provider of air traffic control training around the world. At the Academy, air traffic controllers of all levels of expertise — from new hire to full performance level to facility managers — are trained with the most innovative instructional methodologies and state-of-the-art equipment available.

"We are pleased to be continuing our instructional partnership with the FAA," said

James P. Pappas, vice provost for continuing education. "Our technical staff worked especially hard to develop educational service models that would be effective in the changing world of electronic delivery systems and new approaches to learning."

The program's training and development services are staffed with air traffic control instructors, instructional systems development specialists, education specialists, computer systems analysts and computer programmers and support and administrative staff. The program also provides consultants from the OU facility and from the Northwestern Kellogg School of Business.

Initial qualification training, designed for the beginning student, includes the fundamentals of basic aviation, weather, communications and Federal Aviation Regulations, equipment operations and procedures and critical air traffic control job tasks. The Radar Training Facility and the Automated Flight Service Station lab realistically simulate conditions in field facilities.

Specialized and advanced training for Full Performance Level air traffic controllers and supervisory staff is also offered at the Academy and includes courses in such widely diverse areas as automation, traffic management, airspace management and quality assurance.

Air traffic courses can be tailored by the OU College of Continuing Education to meet the needs of international air traffic students who enroll through the joint efforts of their country, the State Department and the FAA.

In addition to providing quality air traffic instruction, the university assists the academy in developing and maintaining currency of all FAA resident and field facility training materials. Updated versions are sent periodically to FAA facilities for refresher and on-the-job training conducted at the facility sites.

Resident training materials are used for students who come from FAA facilities throughout the United States to the academy for advanced training. An increasingly cost-effective format for these field courses is Computer-Based Instruction (CBI), the foundation of the FAA's Computerized Air Traffic Training System. The OU staff specializes in CBI development techniques and has converted a large number of courses to that format.

The OU College of Continuing Education maintains a high involvement throughout the aviation industry. Other programs

administered by the college include an aviation program and pilot certification, diversity and quality standards training to FAA employees, global positioning system research, and Partnership 21, an international forum to promote the development of a global approach to civil aeronautics and air commerce. Another effort is a program the college is forming to teach aviation English to aviation industry personnel worldwide.

"The continuation of the long-standing partnership between the FAA and OU is an exciting prospect," said "C" Edwards, project manager at OU. "It will provide a valuable opportunity for bold and innovative education and development processes to be implemented by this dynamic team into the 21st century."

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years. At the completion of the Kerr Challenge Grant, the Kerr Endowment held \$1.15 million.

Sul Lee, dean of University Libraries, noted the large number of people who contributed to the challenge grant program, enabling it to be completed slightly ahead of schedule. More than 1,100 individual donors, 67 corporate gifts and 30 foundations helped make the effort a success.

"I am very grateful to the Kerr Foundation for its exceptional support during this 10-year period, and to all of the people who generously support the university libraries' fund-raising effort," Lee said. "With this endowment in place, the University of Oklahoma Libraries is now better prepared to meet the challenges of the future."

