



Wadsworth – Wayne – Akron/Canton- Mansfield

Overview

Avit Flight Academy (formerly AeroTrek) was founded in 2016 on the principles of safety, youth opportunity, and relationships. With a fleet of 29 aircraft, Avit Flight Academy serves the communities around Wadsworth, Akron-Canton, Wayne County, and Mansfield airports. In 2022, Avit logged 9,000 hours of flight time and completed over 75 FAA checkrides.

Avit was one of 16 recipients nationwide of the FAA's Workforce Development Grant program. A federal award of \$77,000 provided funding for classroom equipment and two 8-week ground schools for local 9th and 10th grade students. Each student had the opportunity to log their first two flight lessons, tour facilities, and explore what it takes to become a professional pilot. Learn more [here](#).

What leads to success?

"Having great partnerships is critical. With the airports, the FBO's, the communities... Everyone shares a growth and service mindset, and maintains a common endeavor, and if you can achieve a "5-way win" the success of which is mutual. The growth of a school, is growth of an airport, and of a community.

I think a sponsor, operator, and school often want the same thing. A successful flight school offers based aircraft, activity, and purpose."

Where are the challenges?

"An airport is, quite literally, the front door of our operation. Having safe and functioning facilities are important. From the condition of the pavement and hangar doors, to the FBO. It doesn't need to be new and fancy, but safe, reliable, and clean. It build trust with the students.

Among other things, we are always interested in aircraft leaseback opportunities. I believe we will need at least ten more aircraft by the end of 2023. We have a team of investors in this way and couldn't do it without them."

– Nick Belluardo, Co-founder



Funding Partner

The Federal Aviation Administration provides entitlement, discretionary, and supplemental funding for many of the projects required to increase safety, maintain infrastructure, and improve the capabilities of the nation's aviation system. The Airport Improvement Program, supplemental funding programs, and relief funding play a critical role in infrastructure development and operations.



Funding Partner

Support from the Ohio Department of Transportation Office of Aviation is critical to the success of Ohio Airports. Through direct (80%+) and matching grant (5%) programs ODOT provides much needed support of aviation infrastructure in Ohio. ODOT is also responsible for the protection of Ohio's Airspace for the safe and continued operation of airports in the state.



Advocacy Partner

The Ohio Aviation Association is **the voice for airports** that contribute to the economic vibrancy and well-being of Ohio, the birthplace of aviation.

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