



**TRUCKEE TAHOE AIRPORT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS STAFF REPORT**

AGENDA TITLE: Community Sponsorships – Aviation/STEM Scholarship Program

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, February 22, 2023

PREPARED BY: Marc R. Lamb, TTAD Aviation & Community Services Manager

PRESENTED BY: Robb Etnyre, TTAD General Manager

REPRESENTATIVE: Phyllis McConn, TTCF Community Impact Officer

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Staff is requesting Truckee Tahoe Airport District (TTAD) Board approval in the allocation of \$20,000 in available 2023 Community Sponsorship budgeted funds towards a continuing education scholarship program with the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation (TTCF). Mrs. Phyllis McConn, Community Impact Officer with TTCF will be available to answer any Board questions.

HISTORY: In late 2021, the TTAD Board voted to increase the \$100,000 annual Community Sponsorship budget by an additional \$20,000 annually, for a “potential scholarship program”. The scholarship idea was presented by Board President Kat Rohlf in response to a nationwide shortage of available aviation industry employees. TTAD would sponsor scholarship funding in support of District constituent students already on the path towards seeking higher education (late undergraduate or graduate school) degrees, or vocational training towards specific aviation (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics - STEM) industry related careers.

DISCUSSION: A potential to partner with the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation (TTCF) scholarship program has presented itself for spring 2023. TTCF administers two local student financial assistance scholarship programs: 1) a *Local Scholarship Process for Graduating High School Seniors* and 2) a *TTCF Supplemental Scholarship Process*.

Currently several other local public agencies are involved in support of scholarship programs, including: the Tahoe Forest Hospital District, Truckee Sanitary District, NTPUD, TRPA and several Fire Districts. In 2017 when TTCF started this community effort, available funds were ~\$264,250. That dollar amount has now grown to \$1.35 million in 2022.

TTCF could target TTAD's \$20,000 funding to qualifying aviation/STEM career path applicants in their *Supplemental Scholarship Process*. This program has been launched by a generous new donor who allocated \$150,000 in 2022 and agreed to match \$75,00 to continue the process for 2023. TTCF is actively fundraising to make the match.

The program is opened to a well vetted, highly recommended list of: 1) students transferring from 2 year to 4 year schools, 2) students pursuing graduate school studies, and/or 3) young adults wanting to return to school to change or advance their careers whether at a college or vocational/career tech level. Many candidates are first generation and previous high school scholarship recipients who now want to continue their education, have a clear plan and focus, have pursued all avenues of financial support, but still have financial need.

TTCF reports that: "First cycle ran last summer with awards to nine students ranging in amount from \$1,000 to \$29,000. Three awards were for highly recommended undergrad students transferring from community college to four-year schools, one was for a Spanish teaching credential, and four were for graduate school studies. This new process fills a gap we have long hoped to address and finally had an adequate amount of funds to open the process! We've only ever been able to wish good luck when asked if there were additional resources available."

WHAT'S NEXT: If the TTAD Board of Directors approves the scholarship partnership with TTCF, \$20,000 would be applied towards TTCF's *Supplemental Scholarship Process* and added to the \$75,000 already available to the 2023 scholarship funds. TTCF would administer TTAD's funding per TTAD Board stipulation, to go towards qualifying aviation/STEM related career path student applicants.

FISCAL IMPACT: If approved, \$20,000 of budgeted Community Sponsorship funds would be allocated to TTCF from the TTAD 2023 Budget.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: If the scholarship program funding is approved, TTCF and TTAD staff will communicate the program opportunity when and where appropriate through TTCF and the TTAD's community outreach tools.

SAMPLE MOTION(S): I move to (approve, deny, or continue) the allocation of \$20,000 in support of a Truckee Tahoe Airport District aviation/STEM career path scholarship program, as stipulated in this report, to be administered by, and in partnership with, the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation under their *Supplemental Scholarship Process* for the spring 2023 scholarship cycle.