

2010 Summer Transportation Institute

On Thursday, June 17, the Airport hosted the annual Summer Transportation Institute (STI) Program which creates awareness and exposes high school students to career opportunities in the transportation industry. This year there were 31 students along with their counselors and directors that were housed on the campuses of South Carolina State University and Benedict College. The students in this program come from high schools across the state and are chosen based on a strong criteria including GPA (minimum 2.5), letters of recommendation and written essay.

The day started with the students being greeted by Chappelle Broome who then introduced Michael Williams (Supervisor) for Transportation Security Administration (TSA). Michael spoke to the students about the importance of education, the purpose of TSA and TSA's function at the airport. He described what the passengers experience from the time they check in to continuing through the checkpoint and he took the students on a tour of the baggage screening machines and the checkpoint.

The group then went to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) building where Michael Peay, Archie Fulcher, Anthony Middleton, and Nelson Gaffney took them on a tour of the FAA Tower, Mechanical Room, and the TRACON. Michael Peay discussed career options within FAA and answered the students' questions.

Next, the students went to United Parcel Service (UPS). They were taken into a meeting room where they were told about the daily operation of UPS and about the different types of careers that are available. UPS representatives Rashida Bridges, David Brown, Tina Jones, Chris Coller, Julie Myrick, and Kevin Crowe then took the students on a tour of the UPS facility.

Eagle Aviation (a Fixed Based Operator) at the Airport was next. Herb Dickerson with Eagle gave the students a tour of the Completion Hangar, Eagle Terminal Building, Corporate Hangars, Canopy Hangars, Maintenance Shop, and the Fuel Farm. Herb discussed the fueling process, what a typical workday is like, and the different careers found at a Fixed Based Operator.

The students returned to the terminal for lunch and Executive Director Dan Mann spoke to the group about his experience in the Aviation business and explained what a typical day for an Airport Executive Director is like. He then entertained questions from the group.

After lunch, the students were taken to Operations where Manager Thomas Kutsch explained the daily function of Operations at the Airport.

Information Technology (IT) Manager, Joel Livingston and IT Network Administrator, Shane Stockman explained their roles in the IT Department and showed the students the server room and what it housed and the part they contribute to keeping the Airport connected.

At the Airport Police Department, Debbie Krauss explained her job as a Security Specialist and what type of background checks are performed to work at an airport. She explained how the students' current decisions could affect them in the future, and how a felony conviction or bad driving record could prohibit them from getting a badge.

The students' final visit was to the Airport Fire Department where Engineer Andrew James explained a typical day at the firehouse, and then the students were escorted outside where Engineer Eric Riehle demonstrated what functions RB9 (Redbird 9/airport fire truck) could perform.

Special thanks to all the Airport Family and especially the following individuals for your time and assistance: Amy Williams (Administration), Giulia Stellato (Marketing), Theresa Guinyard (Building Maintenance), Connie Martin (Administration), Judy Pursley (Administration), and Deb Taylor (Administration).