



TECHNOLOGY
ASSOCIATION
OF OREGON

November 11, 2020

Dear AYEF Leadership,

The Technology Association of Oregon (“TAO”) greatly appreciates the efforts of the Aviation Youth Empowerment Foundation (“AYEF”) to diversify and broaden the candidate pools in college programs related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (“STEM”) fields. Now more than ever, we need more women and Black, Indigenous and people of color in the U.S. aviation industry across the United States. College is a key career pathway to diversifying the entire aviation industry. Specifically, we support your mission to encourage the Pacific Northwest aviation industry – inclusive of aviation manufacturing, technology, and engineering – to directly fund under-resourced youth to attend college. The more aviation companies are active and inclusive in their local community, the greater their return on investment will be in the long run.

Technology is the glue, grease, and the skids that enables innovation among Oregon’s \$80 billion aviation sector. It is a major and rapidly growing industry and will be a key source of job creation and economic development as we recover from the global pandemic. As you know, Oregon is a national leader in advanced metals used in aviation, composite aircraft, airfield systems and equipment, kit aircraft, and heavy lift helicopters. We want to see these outstanding industries continue to blaze new paths -- and that means becoming more active and inclusive in the employees chosen to learn, work, and innovate within them.

Representing nearly 500 companies, the Technology Association of Oregon unites the region's technology industry and is a recognized leader in shaping and growing technology and business communities. We believe that AYEF’s STEM Scholarship Program is an extraordinary opportunity for Pacific Northwest companies to become more engaged with the social and economic challenges we face together. We wholeheartedly support your efforts and view you as allies in change.

Should you need our assistance on any matters concerning the STEM scholarship program, our staff stands ready to help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cara Snow". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cara Snow, Technology of Oregon, Chief Community Engagement Officer