

NEWS RELEASE

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ISU pilots set to compete in Transcontinental Air Race

Terre Haute, IN – While Indiana has always been rich in racing history, the Indiana State University College of Technology is looking to take off on a new chapter this year by sponsoring a team in the 80th Annual Air Race Classic. This transcontinental air race is open only to women, and ISU will have two of their finest behind the controls competing against 34 other teams in this year's cross country adventure.

Jessica Campbell, a student in the Department of Aviation who recently brought home the honor of "top student" at the Spring Aviation Awards Banquet is teamed up with Victoria Dunbar, a faculty member in the Department of Aviation Technology who has prior race experience. Together, they look forward to representing ISU in this event that earns a lot of notoriety throughout the aviation industry. "We are very proud of these two outstanding professionals who will no doubt represent the College of Technology in a positive way while showing potential students some of the opportunities out there for our aviators," said Tad Foster, Dean of the College of Technology.

Looking for more speed and better performance, the ISU team will be flying a Diamond DA40 owned by Dixie Chopper Air based at the Putnam County Airport. The 2009 Air Race Classic marks the DA40's debut in cross country air racing. Manufactured in Canada, the Diamond is built from composite materials, making the airplane both lighter and stronger. It is powered by a Textron Lycoming IO-360-M1A engine capable of producing high speeds from the surface up to 16,400 feet, giving the ISU team a wide range of altitudes to choose from throughout the race. "The skills and training of those two is easily apparent by just how quickly they have taken to this new aircraft, I'm excited about their chances," said John Layne of Dixie Chopper, who has been coaching Campbell and Dunbar in the DA40.

The current race routes are approximately 2,400 statute miles in length, and the teams are given four days, flying VFR in daylight hours, to reach the terminus. Each plane is assigned a handicap speed – and the goal is to have the actual ground speed be as far over the handicap speed as possible. The pilots are thus given the leeway to play the elements, holding out for better weather, winds, etc. The objective is to fly the "perfect" cross-country flight. In this type of race, the official standings cannot be released until the final entrant has crossed the finish line. "It depends a lot on strategy, the last arrival could actually be the winner," said Dunbar.

This year's race begins on June 23 in Denver, CO with checkpoints in Liberal, KS, Sweetwater, TX, Lufkin, TX, Russellville, AR, Grenada, MS, Sparta, TN, Jacksonville, IL and Racine, WI before finishing in Atlantic, IA on or before June 26.

You can learn more about the ISU College of Technology at www.indstate.edu/tech and more about the Air Race at www.airraceclassic.org.

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