



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR UNIVERSITY (AETC)**

April 25, 2018

The Honorable John Hoeven
220 E. Rosser Rm 312
Bismarck, ND 58501

Dear Senator Hoeven,

I am excited to deliver great news about the inaugural Air Force Junior ROTC Flight Academy. This is an Air Force Chief of Staff initiative that stems from the Aircrew Crisis Task Force and is intended to develop interest in aviation. The University of North Dakota, in Grand Forks has been selected as one of six partnering universities for this program. In the summer of 2018, ten students out of one hundred and twenty, from around the country will attend a seven week flight training school at UND to earn their Private Pilot License. AFJROTC is looking forward to a continued partnership with the University of North Dakota and intends to increase enrollment in future years.

The scholarship program is a joint Air Force and industry initiative intended to inspire and encourage high school youth toward aviation careers. According to industry and military leadership, the nation is facing a pilot shortage "crisis." Additionally, as a profession, aviators are one of the least diverse in the nation with less than 7% female and 10% minority representation.

AFJROTC partners with 886 high schools (50% Title 1 locations), and has 120,000 cadets with 58% minority and 40% female representation. Our cadets are a highly competitive and service-oriented group; 85% maintain an A/B grade point average and collectively volunteered 1.6 million hours of community service last year. AFJROTC is providing a viable and enduring reduction to the pilot shortage while simultaneously bringing much needed diversity to the profession. These cadets are providing the foundation for a growing government/industry partnership, to meet the nation's needs.

Thank you for supporting your AFJROTC programs. My team would love to provide further details about the program, and the University of North Dakota summer flight academy. If you would like to know more, please contact AFJROTC at 334-953-0265.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul C. Lips", is written over a white background.

PAUL C. LIPS, Colonel, USAF
Director

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