

## **Wallace Community College joins the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Centers of Excellence program**

WCC officials and the University of Oklahoma (Technical Lead) and the FAA Center of Excellence for Technical Training and Human Performance academic and industry team, recently announced the college's acceptance as an affiliate member of the research consortium.

Per a statement from FAA officials, "WCC joins FAA's existing academic partners (25), as the institution is dedicated to advancing aviation education utilizing the newest immersive simulations and adaptive learning technologies. For example, WCC plans to create cinematic-quality virtual reality content, including training modules for medicine, law enforcement, manufacturing, the performing arts, and aviation education. We believe these immersive environments are ideal for the future of aviation training, and are essential to attracting students to aviation. This would allow WCC to serve as a future recruitment site for FAA COE TTHP study participants for research of a related scope and in line with the request of the FAA sponsors and technical monitors that establish our Center's research priorities."

"We are very honored and excited to be accepted as an affiliate member of the University of Oklahoma and FAA Center of Excellence. This membership offers our students, general community, and the City of Selma greater access and opportunity in aviation virtual reality and immersive simulations," said WCC President Dr. James M. Mitchell "This is another shining example of collaborative partnerships."

The FAA COE TTHP was established in August of 2016. The Center is in its fifth year of operation with three additional years planned for Phase I and another five years planned for Phase II. The primary goal is to provide baseline research, curriculum development, validation of new training content, and prototype testing of training technology for the FAA's Air Traffic Organization, as well as NextGen, Flight Program Operations, and Aviation Safety divisions. The FAA COE TTHP has conducted over 70 projects resulting in new training methods using augmented reality, virtual reality, gamification, and mobile learning applications. In addition, we have assisted the FAA with fleet modernization planning and exploring the feasibility of UAS-based flight inspection.

For more information about the FAA Centers of Excellence program, visit the COE web page at <http://www.faa.gov/go/coe>.