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PRESS RELEASE

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State Aerospace and Defense Sector Council to **Take Rancho Students to HELI-EXPO**

The Aerospace and Defense Sector Council of the state's Governor's Workforce investment Board has organized a field trip for 109 Rancho High School students to attend the HELI-EXPO, the world's largest helicopter convention which will be held in Las Vegas next week, announced council chair Kenneth Witcher.

The HELI-EXPO, March 4-7, 2013, will occupy 1.5 million square feet of space at the Las Vegas Convention Center with 20,000 Participants including helicopter manufacturers, pilots, owners, operators, students, aviation technicians, training schools, government officials, military and regulatory agencies.

The Helicopter Association International, (HAI) host of the event, donated a day pass on Tuesday to the students and members of the council who will chaperone, said Witcher, who is also faculty at the Department of Aeronautics at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

The students will attend the opening breakfast where they will be recognized by HAI president. They will then visit the exhibit hall which will include 65 helicopters, 725 exhibitors, mentoring panels and job fair, where they will be allowed to explore and ask questions.

"We are appreciative to the council and Helicopter Association for their generosity for sponsoring the students," said Angela Nickels, Magnet Coordinator at Rancho High School. "This is an exciting opportunity for the students to get a real world view of aeronautics right here in their own back yard with this spectacular display of aircraft technology."

Students apply to the Rancho's Academy of Aviation Science and Technology based on their interest in the aerospace and aviation fields. The Academy is currently comprised of three unique programs: Pilot Training, Aerospace Engineering, and Aviation Maintenance Technician.

“We want to support these students as much as possible in their goals of pursuing this career field,” Witcher said. “The council is diligent in its mission to provide a highly qualified and diverse workforce to assist with growing the aerospace and defense industry with in Nevada. “We are excited to have an event of this magnitude here in our city.”

The Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR) established on behalf of the Governor’s Workforce Investment Board nine sector councils, including the Aerospace and Defense Sector Council, to bring together key professionals to address the delivery of industry-specific training and workforce development initiatives in support of the economic development goals of the state.

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DETR is comprised of the Employment Security Division, Equal Rights Commission, Rehabilitation Division, the Information Development and Processing Division and the Research and Analysis Bureau. DETR works in partnership with the Nevada JobConnect System to provide training and job placement services to job seekers and to assist employers in hiring practices.