

NEWS RELEASE

**The International Helicopter Safety Team strategically partners with Embry-Riddle
Aeronautical University-Worldwide**

*IHST has set an aggressive goal of reducing the worldwide civil and military helicopter
accident rates by 80% in 10 years.*

During the 2011 Heli-Expo in Orlando, International Helicopter Safety Team (IHST) Executive Committee member Fred Brisbois established a working relationship with members of the helicopter academic program from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-Worldwide. Several projects are currently underway to support the new IHST mission of drastically reducing helicopter accidents worldwide.

One of the supporting projects is in the form of research, while the other comes from ERAU-W's Helicopter Operations and Safety Discipline Chair, Assnt. Prof. Scott Burgess.

The first order of business for Burgess will be submitting an operational safety analysis for publication to the IHST. Embry-Riddle has been developing its helicopter programs since 2002 at the Prescott Campus, which now has a flight program, and at the Worldwide campus since 2008. ERAU-W is currently working closely with the Helicopter Association International (HAI), the IHST, and with other major components of the industry in this effort.

The research project offers another opportunity for industry involvement from ERAU-W. Executive Vice President, John Watret, recently allocated \$30,000 to support academic excellence and assist ERAU-W's scholars in their research by funding Worldwide's fourth Research Award Competition. The award allocation was earmarked for Faculty, while another portion is available to graduate student applicants.

Recently, Ms. Katherine Hilst, an enterprising Graduate Student in the Master of Aeronautical Science degree program, acquired a research grant under this competition. Hilst will evaluate the analysis of the detailed safety research conducted by the IHST with emphasis on identifying and recommending the best method and format to impart the findings to the ultimate users of the information (aircrews).

The IHST research will be compartmentalized, and aligned with the most effective communication and training methodologies and prepared for further production into a product that will be distributed industry-wide. The ultimate goal of Hilst's research will be to identify the best possible method to communicate helicopter safety research information to the industry and prepare the IHST for the next phase of production.

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Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, the world's largest, fully accredited university specializing in aviation and aerospace, offers more than 30 undergraduate and graduate degree programs in its colleges of Arts and Sciences, Aviation, Business, and Engineering. Embry-Riddle educates students at residential campuses in Daytona Beach, Fla., and Prescott, Ariz., through the Worldwide Campus at more than 150 locations in the United States, Europe, Asia, Canada, and the Middle East, and through online learning. For more information, visit www.embryriddle.edu.