

PORT OF SEATTLE
MEMORANDUM

COMMISSION AGENDA
SPECIAL ORDER

Item No.	<u>3b</u>
Date of Meeting	<u>June 14, 2016</u>

DATE: May 16, 2016
TO: Ted Fick, Chief Executive Officer
FROM: Elizabeth Leavitt, Director Aviation Planning and Environmental Services
Steven Rybolt, Environmental Program Manager
Marco Milanese, Aviation Community Relations Manager
SUBJECT: Special Order of Business – Recognize the 2016 Raisbeck Aviation High School Environmental Challenge Award Winners

SYNOPSIS

Airport staff would like to recognize the winners of the 2016 Raisbeck Aviation High School (RAHS) Airports and the Environment High School Curriculum, also known as the Environmental Challenge. In the annual program, students are given and must solve a “true-to-life” environmental problem representative of the type of challenges airports typically encounter. The curriculum showcases aviation professions, particularly those at an airport, and helps students understand why complex challenges require a multi-disciplinary approach.

2016 AWARD WINNERS

Eli Benevedes
Dakota Gorder
Ulises Mendoza
Ailis Waddill

BACKGROUND

The Airports and the Environment High School Curriculum is an annual project-based learning and educational program designed by Seattle-Tacoma International Airport’s Environmental Programs and Public Affairs staff. The program began in 2008, and 2016 represents the 9th year of the challenge. The one-month intensive curriculum was developed specifically for RAHS and is the culminating project for the school’s sophomore class.

Founded and operated by Highline Public Schools, RAHS is an innovative science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) high school with students from communities around the airport and potentially, the future aviation workforce. According to U.S. News

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& World Report, Raisbeck Aviation High School is ranked as the number one high school in Washington State for 2016.

Students form teams and assume the role of a professional environmental consulting firm to solve the annual Environmental Challenge. Students use information presented by airport staff, airline officials, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and other outside agencies. They also conduct independent research, participate in an airport field trip and hands-on activities to develop their optimal solution to the Challenge.

This year the Challenge was to identify the impacts of growth at Sea-Tac Airport, specifically around increased aircraft operations. Teams were asked to identify the problem, evaluate various methods to increase the efficiency of the airfield as Sea-Tac continues to grow, and explain and mitigate environmental and community impacts while considering a variety of potential alternatives.

Final team presentations are judged by a panel of experts comprised of aviation and environmental professionals and local community leaders. The winning team is invited to the airport for a day of activities and tours designed specifically for them.

The program won a 2014 Airports Council International Award for Excellence in Airport Marketing and Communication Award - Aviation Education and Tour Programs. The program supports the Port's workforce development goals, and helps prepare students for careers in the aviation field.

NEXT STEPS:

Port of Seattle Commissioners will have the opportunity to present a commemorative plaque to the 2016 winning team during the June 14, 2016 Commission meeting.

ATTACHMENTS TO THIS SPECIAL ORDER

- PowerPoint Presentation (w/video)