



**COMMISSION
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

Item No. 3c

BRIEFING ITEM

Date of Meeting June 27, 2017

DATE: June 12, 2017

TO: Dave Soike, Interim Executive Director

FROM: Arlyn Purcell, Director Aviation Environment and Sustainability
Steven Rybolt, Environmental Program Manager

SUBJECT: Recognition of the 2017 Raisbeck Aviation High School Environmental Challenge Award Winners

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Airport staff would like to recognize the winners of the 2017 Raisbeck Aviation High School (RAHS) Airports and the Environment High School Curriculum, also known as the Environmental Challenge. With 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.

2017 AWARD WINNERS

Team “Evergreen Consulting” proposed warehouse and flight kitchens using sustainable building practices and a community program to help maintain and enhance vegetated areas. The winning team members are:

- Payton Adams
- Charleisha Cox
- Matthew Morin
- Brian Phuong

ADDITIONAL 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 2017 represents the 10th year of the program. The one-month intensive curriculum was developed specifically for RAHS and is the culminating project for the school’s sophomore class.

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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 who represent the airport's and aviation industry's future workforce.

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

This year, the Environmental Challenge was to identify development opportunities for three vacant airport properties while balancing the Port of Seattle's environmental, economic, and community objectives. The Environmental Challenge also included a twist where an endangered species was thought to be present at one of the sites. Teams were asked to identify environmental concerns, integrate environmental and sustainability attributes into property development, and explain and mitigate environmental and community impacts while considering a variety of potential alternatives.

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

ATTACHMENTS TO THIS BRIEFING

- Presentation slides

PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTIONS OR BRIEFINGS

June 14, 2016 – The Commission recognized the 2016 Raisbeck Aviation High School Environmental Challenge Award Winners