





# 1. Executive Summary



## Beginning the Journey

*Jeff Geer, BRAVO 369 pilot, answers questions about aviation from 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Mossyrock School.*

The BRAVO 369 Flight Foundation is a non-profit organization whose main objective is to offer a unique educational opportunity for students and teachers everywhere to actively participate in the “Flight for Education,” a historic flight from Bellingham, Washington to Provideniya, Russia in an open cockpit biplane.

Using the Lend Lease Air Route of 1942 as its foundation, dedicated educators from Washington State’s Mossyrock School District are working with the BRAVO 369 Flight Foundation to create an open curriculum, which will provide a unique “hands-on” approach to learning. Upon the completion of this educational template, it will be made available for free distribution to every interested educator, classroom and student.

What makes BRAVO 369’s “Flight for Education” important? According to an article in the August 8, 2008 edition of Washington CEO Magazine “Failure to Compute,” in 2007, “less than 60 percent of Washington students met the math standard of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL). Science scores are even worse. Washington (WASL) test scores lagged far behind other states and, even the United States as a whole, earned dismal scores in both math and science. A Stanford University study suggests “higher math and science scores positively affect a country’s gross domestic product and produce such long-term gains as 64% higher incomes.” Even more striking is the fact that Engineering and Engineering Technology degrees are in high demand from employers, yet the number of graduates test far below industry standards.



## BRAVO 369 “The Flight for Education”

*An interactive aviation journey from Bellingham, Washington to Montana, Alberta, British Columbia, the Yukon, Alaska, and Russia.*

With overcrowded classrooms and funding cutbacks, many teachers have been forced to structure their teaching time around the general “review” of subject matter using outdated text books rather than teaching the theory behind the concept. The Flight for Education is an alternative approach to current teaching methods providing a real time, interactive, flying classroom. To enhance time-honored classroom studies, students, educators, and the general public alike, can “learn and experience” these subjects as part of a winged journey over some of the most rugged and beautiful country in North America using readily available technology. What makes this program unique is it provides an exciting “hands-on” environment, enabling students to virtually fly along with the BRAVO 369 team in a 1941 Boeing Stearman biplane.



The program will stimulate involvement and exposure to a range of subjects including, but not limited to:



### **The Boeing Stearman**

*The Stearman is an open cockpit biplane that played a significant role in training Army Air Corps and Navy Pilots during WWII.*

- ◆ Aerospace
- ◆ Culture
- ◆ Geography
- ◆ History
- ◆ Mathematics
- ◆ Music
- ◆ Political Science
- ◆ Science
- ◆ Technology

An excellent example of the academic effectiveness of this type of program has been demonstrated by the Priest River Elementary School in Idaho. Under the direction of educator Chris Naccarato, students role play a NASA launch team under the auspices of NACA: National Astronaut in the Classroom Association. The students not only learn each of the critical tasks associated with launching real rockets but they are visited by real astronauts and pilots. The student's classroom is also designed in such a way that it represents a "true" environment solely dedicated to aerospace technology and education. As part of their role playing and team assignments, students even wear decorated flight suits. CDR Bruce Melnick, space shuttle astronaut and the first Coast Guard aviator to ever fly in space, recently visited the school to reinforce the importance of their program. He told the students that, "With hard work, you can do and be whatever you want to be." Each of the NACA students was presented with astronaut pins, signifying their successful completion of the program and leaving a positive, lasting impression that these students will never forget. The Flight for Education builds upon this new approach to teaching by reaching out to as many schools and students as possible, reinforcing the powerful message of "perseverance" as a pathway to achieving goals.



### **Flying in Formation**

*Anyone using Microsoft Flight Simulator X™ will be able to fly in formation with the aircraft in real time as part of the education experience.*

In the spirit of aviation history the BRAVO 369 Flight Foundation is dedicated to honoring those pioneering aviators who opened up the Canadian Yukon, Alaskan, and Russia skies of the Northern frontier. Our legacy is inspiration – to positively motivate and encourage our children and future generations to dream, strive for excellence and to reach for the stars.



### 7<sup>th</sup> Ferrying Squadron Patch from 1942

*The patch worn by the WWII Lend-Lease pilots ferrying planes to the former Soviet Union via the Northern Ferrying Route from 1942 - 1945.*

BRAVO 369 is named after an air route extending from Nome, Alaska to Provideniya, Russia. Recently opened, there have been only a handful of flights along this route in modern general aviation aircraft; however, no one has flown it from the lower 48 states using the Lend-Lease route – much less in an open cockpit biplane like the Stearman. This northern air route was used to ferry aircraft and supplies to the former Soviet Union during WWII and extends from Great Falls, Montana up through Canada and into Alaska and Russia. Under the Roosevelt Administration, the Lend-Lease program dramatically changed the tide of the WWII. Unfortunately, those who flew the planes and built the route received little or no recognition. The BRAVO 369 Flight Foundation hopes to rekindle interest in this lost history and will be seeking out any remaining Lend-Lease veterans and living historians who are willing to share their stories as part of this documentary and educational effort.

The Flight for Education is scheduled for the summer of 2011. The BRAVO 369 Flight Foundation is seeking financial support through private and corporate donors as well as endorsements from educators and business leaders. This financial support will be used to fund the Flight for Education as well as help us develop our scholarship programs and provide funding for future educational projects.



Students role play a NASA launch team under the auspices of NACA: National Astronaut in the Classroom Association