February 7, 2019

Student Governing Association
c/o Office of Student Activities and Services
Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS 6506

Dear Green Action Fund Committee;

I am in full support of the attached “Paths of History” Green Action Fund proposal. The Polytechnic Community Service and Outreach Club’s plan for aviation historical commemorative placards surrounded by low-maintenance, low-water, drought-resistant planting beds is a great way to bring additional student learning opportunities to our aviation-focused campus. Moreover, it is an ideal supplement to the city of Salina’s Steve Fossett Memorial plaza, which celebrates his non-stop around-the-world flight, and is located only a few feet from the campus’ southern boundary.

I am pleased that the Community Service and Outreach Club will be working collaboratively with staff from the Central Kansas Extension District, whose office is located on the Polytechnic campus; Polytechnic Landscape Advisory Committee, which is currently working to replace all of the campus landscaping with drought-resistant native plants; and the Smoky Hill Museum, a rich repository of history information for the Salina area. I believe that the club members will learn many skills while completing this project, including timely project management, fiscal responsibility, efficient teamwork, and accurate evaluation and report-writing.

If awarded, the funds to support this project will be managed by the Polytechnic Fiscal Services Office. This office has extensive experience with grant award management and will be willing to produce whatever financial reports are needed to document how and when the funds are used.

I look forward to the environmental and educational benefits that this project will add to KSU Polytechnic. Thank you for this outstanding opportunity for the Community Service and Outreach Club to improve our campus setting and educate our campus community.

Sincerely,

Alysia Starkey

Dr. Alysia Starkey
KSU Polytechnic Interim CEO and Dean
Green Action Fund Proposal

Project Description – “Aviation Path of History”

The KSU Polytechnic Community Service and Outreach Club, supported fully by the Interim CEO and Dean, has planned an “Aviation Path of History” that will be located on the highly aviation-focused Polytechnic campus. It will consist of an existing high-traffic walkway between the main academic building (Technology Center) and the aviation training building (Stevens Flight Center), and four newly-built learning stations that highlight three important aviation milestones that happened on or near the campus.

The locations selected for the four learning centers include:

- A currently grass-filled triangle between three walkways, just outside the north entrance of the Technology Center
- A location next to the walkway just south of the Technology Center
- A garden bed that is located to the immediate east of the Stevens Aviation Center building’s main entrance
- Around an existing bench that is located about half way between the two buildings along the walkway that is most commonly used by pedestrians traveling from one to the other

There are two main goals for this project, the first of which is education. Many students have no idea how important their college has been to the advancement of aviation in the U.S. The campus is located on a decommissioned Air Force base that played an essential role in the Strategic Air Command during the 1950 and 60s. It served the Army Air Corps during WW2, and was home base for the B-52 and KC-135 bombers and tankers during the era of the Cold War. The original runway still serves the Salina Regional Airport and KSU Polytechnic.

It was here that the Kansas Technical Institute, which later became KSU Polytechnic, had its beginnings. It was also here that students and faculty served as the ground crew for Steve Fossett’s record-breaking “Global Flyer” non-stop around-the-world solo flight in 2005. In fact, the Global Flier Memorial Plaza built by City of Salina is only a few steps south of the campus border and very close to one of the proposed learning area locations.

These are only a few of the milestones that are connected to the campus. The Club will contact the Smoky Hill Museum in Salina, which specializes in local history, to identify and learn about other possible aviation milestones. The Club feels that it is very important to recognize and celebrate the most memorable incidents of college’s rich aviation heritage, so they plan to research the options fully before they decide ones to memorialize.

Secondly, club members feel that it is extremely important to upgrade the livability of the campus for students and staff. Studies have shown that plants can help boost energy and generate positive moods, but there are currently very few outdoor locations on campus that are conducive to studying or socializing. The “Aviation Path of History” project will use native, drought-resistant, low maintenance plants and trees to build an inviting oasis around each of the learning stations for students and visitors to relax.

All of the locations are less than a 5-minute walk from the dorms, academic buildings and student cafeteria, so it will be very easy for the student body to find and use the new gardens.
Moreover, because they are located beside a wide, smooth concrete walkway, they will be fully accessible by those with physical disabilities.

KSU Polytechnic has not had a groundskeeper for several years. The existing plantings and trees, which are mostly high-maintenance irrigated varieties, have suffered. Even more disturbing, the current lawns and gardens require up to 1 million gallons of water each year, which is a drain on both the environment and the campus budget. The campus is currently undergoing a comprehensive review of its landscaping practices and materials under the supervision of a Landscape Advisory Committee made of faculty, staff, students and community members. The “Aviation Path of History” will support the mission of the Landscape Committee and will be the first low-water, low-maintenance improvement project on campus.

The Polytechnic Community Service and Outreach Club will also receive assistance from the KSU Extension Service. This education and outreach arm of Kansas State University has an office in every county of the state; including one that is located on the Polytechnic campus. The Central Kansas District Extension Office is home to a professional horticulturist and a group of dedicated Master Gardeners who have the skills and knowledge needed to help Club members learn how, where and when to plant native plants for optimal growth. They have already agreed to assist with the training and guidance that club members will need to successfully complete the “Aviation Path of History” garden areas.

Form and amount of direct student involvement

The “Aviation Path of History” will be planned, designed, and completed by the student members of the Community Service and Outreach Club. They will consult with the Smoky Hill Museum to help identify aviation milestones, and will use the guidelines for plant selection that have been developed by the campus Landscape Advisory Committee to plan the garden areas. The local Extension horticulturalist and Master Gardener volunteers will provide education about planting techniques and plant care, but the club members will do all of the work.

Sustainability /environmental Benefits

- By June 2019, the Community Service and Outreach Committee will design, plan and complete four aviation learning stations on the Polytechnic campus that consist of an informational placard surrounded by a low water/drought resistant, low maintenance planting bed.

- By June 2019, aesthetically pleasing landscape beds at each of four aviation learning stations will serve as gathering, relaxing and studying locations for Polytechnic students. The students who use them will benefit mentally and physically from being in a plant-rich environment.

Benefits to student body

- KSU Polytechnic students will have four new inviting locations on campus to relax, study and/or socialize. Weekly observation of the learning stations will show that they are being used regularly in good weather.

- KSU Polytechnic students will learn about the aviation history of the campus and surrounding area. When asked, at least 50% of randomly selected students will be able to name at least one on the milestones celebrated on the placards.
• The student members of the Polytechnic Community Service and Outreach Club will learn and successfully apply skills in planning, writing, budgeting, reporting, financial and program management, native plant installation and care, and program evaluation as evidenced by the successfully completed “Aviation Path of History”

• The Community Service and Outreach Club members will develop partnerships with:
  o The Smoky Hill Museum to learn about local aviation history and successfully choose four milestone events to highlight on the “Aviation Path of History”
  o Central Kansas Extension District Horticulture staff and Master Gardeners to learn about plant installation and care, so that the plants in the garden beds will thrive
  o Polytechnic Landscape Advisory Committee to choose native, low-water, low-maintenance plants that will coordinate with the new campus-wide landscaping.

• Students will have opportunities to make decisions about and contribute to the campus community, and will be celebrated for their creative initiative. The members of the Community Service and Outreach Club will be highlighted in campus and community news items and the impacts of their project will be widely shared.

**Statement of Support from Department**

Please see attached letter from Dr. Alysia Starkey, CEP and Dean of KSU Polytechnic

**Detailed Budget**

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<th>Item</th>
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Total budget: $9900

**Timeline of Activities**

The KSU Polytechnic Community Service and Outreach Club will:

**March 2019**

• Contact Smoky Hill Museum to obtain historical information about Schilling AFB and other aviation-related historical events from the local area
• Research other aviation milestones and choose the ones that will be commemorated on the “Aviation Path of History”
• Consult with Landscape Advisory Committee to choose plants that will be installed at each learning station; choose native plants from the campus master plant list
• Make sure that plantings as planned are consistent with overall campus landscape plan
• Review local aviation historical events and make a preliminary choice of four
• Write drafts of the historical descriptions that will be placed on each placard
• Explore placard design possibilities with local studios within the budget allowed
• Gather placard options and review them with the committee

**April-May 2019**
• Finalize the written copy that will be placed on each placard
• Choose the final placard design and the studio that will construct them
• Place the order for 4 aviation history memorial placards and stands
• Consult with the Landscape Advisory Committee to finalize the choice and design of plantings that will be installed at each “Aviation Path of History” placard location
• Dig out old plants and grass areas at each “Aviation Path of History” learning station
• Install weed barrier at all of the new learning station garden beds
• If available, install the upright pole that will support the history placard at each location, using cement at the base for long-term durability and stability
• Receive training from Extension Master Gardeners and/or Extension Horticulture faculty in the proper method to plant each of the native species that will be used in the planting beds
• Identify potential vendors for selected native plants and trees
• Compare prices and plant viability, and choose a supplier(s) for the native plant material
• Make sure that the supplier(s) will have the plants in the proper quantity at the agreed prices when it is time to plant

**May-June 2019**
• Purchase the plants that will be used in the planting beds located at each learning station from the selected vendors
• Plant the beds with native plants and trees, using the methods taught by Extension Master Gardeners and/or Extension Horticulture faculty
• Spread mulch over the weed barrier
• Install the placards on the upright posts
• Water the newly planted beds as needed until the plants are established
• Complete all financial recordkeeping as required by the Polytechnic Fiscal Services Office
• Complete the grant and financial reports and submit to SGA by the deadline as required