



## Media Release

### **AIRLINES AND AVIATION DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL JOIN STATE SENATOR SMITH TO HELP SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM IN QUEENS**

Aviation Development Council (ADC), a bridge organization between the region's aviation industry and the communities it serves, is proud to announce its partnership with State Senator Malcolm Smith & Taurus Associates in support of the 2008 *Youth Business Network* summer employment program for young people in Southeast Queens. ADC's support of this important summer employment program came as a result of some dialogue between American Airlines' Managing Director for State & Community Affairs, Justin Bernbach and State Senator Smith. A support proposal was then brought to ADC and received the overwhelming support of its airline board members, including representation from the Port Authority of NY & NJ.

"Aviation Development Council has formulated a community outreach program which is focused on youth wellness, youth leadership development, and youth education. We were looking for a worthwhile initiative in Southeast Queens and were excited when Justin Bernbach of American Airlines brought us this program. The 2008 *Youth Business Network* summer employment initiative became a natural choice for our local outreach efforts," states Bill Huisman, Executive Director of the Aviation Development Council. "We appreciate State Senator Smith's unwavering concern for the youth of his community and the support we received from the Port Authority and our airline board members for this project. We are pleased to be helping Taurus Associates, Inc. and State Senator Smith with this exciting program for young people in the Southeast Queens communities," continued Mr. Huisman.

"The *Youth Business Network* program was created by Senator Malcolm A. Smith in 2005, and is a summer program that employs students between the ages of 15-19 in various organizations and companies throughout Queens, New York. The seven-week program, which we expect will begin this year on July 7, 2008, exposes 25 students to meaningful job assignments that will help to prepare them for the future careers in law, government, medicine and business. The program encourages and teaches leadership, independence, and the skills necessary to perform in a professional environment. The program also promotes financial literacy and responsibility by emphasizing the importance of managing money", said Sharon Sweeting-Lindsey, Executive Director of Taurus Associates, who worked in collaboration with Senator Smith on this important project.

Some of the community businesses that are involved in this program include the Queens Borough President's Office, the Office of the Queens District Attorney, Allen Development Corporation, Allstate Insurance, Aviation Development Council and many others. Some of the sponsoring companies provide funding for salaries, while other companies hire the young people during the summer months of the program.

The Aviation Development Council (ADC) is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to be a positive agent for the advancement of aviation in the New York metropolitan area by promoting a business-minded, community-friendly agenda for both the region's aviation industry and the communities it serves. ADC is funded by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the airlines that operate at four Port-Authority managed airports (LGA, JFK, EWR, TEB). ADC's Board of Directors is comprised of representatives from American Airlines, Air Canada, Continental Airlines, Delta Air Lines, and the Port Authority of NY & NJ.

A media conference will be held on Wednesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 10AM, at State Senator Malcolm Smith's office, at 205-19 Linden Blvd., St. Albans, NY. A check presentation from Aviation Development Council to Senator Smith will be made during this event.

For more information contact Bill Huisman of ADC, 718-746-0212 or Ms. Pat Rubens of Senator Smith's Office at 212-298-5585.