

# President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

## *Teachers Immersed in Aerospace*

**Grant amount:** \$355,628

**Grantee:** Florida Space Research Institute (FSRI)

**Key partners:**

The Summer Industrial Fellowship for Teachers (SIFT), Inc., the Civil Air Patrol, NASA Kennedy Space Center and Workforce Florida

**Location of grant activities:** Cape Canaveral, Fla.

**Leveraged amount:** \$174,703

**Challenge:**

This proposal addresses several challenges identified by aerospace industry stakeholders regarding the need to help build awareness of aerospace careers along the K-12 pipeline. One current problem concerns the fact that teachers need increased exposure and experience in the aerospace field. FSRI has submitted a \$355,628 proposal that will provide in class room aerospace mentors in North Florida and immerse technology teachers in real world manufacturing and technical projects within the industry, which will reinforce classroom content and enable a better understanding of aerospace skills and career opportunities.

**Addressing the Challenge:**

With its \$355,628 grant, FSRI will provide two aerospace mentors, covering seven counties and 25 teacher externships for technology teachers to improve hands-on knowledge and awareness of the skills required for aerospace careers. The project will be integrated into the existing SIFT project after the conclusion of this grant to ensure sustainability. FSRI will share its teacher externship, employer recruitment and mentoring models with other states and localities, making this initiative highly replicable.

**Projected Outcome:**

- Employers sponsoring teacher externships
- Provide summer employment opportunities for 25 technology teachers in 2005 in the aerospace industry
- Provide follow-up classroom materials
- Provide incentives for participating teachers to apply their work experiences in the classroom
- Reach 2,500 technology students per year
- Provide two new aerospace mentors serving North Florida
- Provide mentor training at NASA Kennedy Space Center
- Provide in classroom visits to schools in a ten county region in North and Central Florida
- Provide six in service workshops for teachers in the new ten county region, each reaching 50 teachers