

NEWS

CFAA Teacher Takes Part In Embry-Riddle Suborbital Astronautics Training

August 8, 2011



CFAA teacher George Bartuska is in the front seat of glider he piloted.
Eagle Sport Aviation Club Officer and Flight Instructor Andrea Luethi is in the back seat.

George Bartuska, a teacher at Kathleen High's Central Florida Aerospace Academy (CFAA), was of 20 educators nationally to participate in Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's astronaut training held this summer.

The event was held at Embry-Riddle's Daytona Beach campus and was titled "Suborbital Astronautics" training and was a collaborative effort of NASA, Embry-Riddle, the [Teachers in Space organization](#) and other partners. The event was a professional development opportunity for teachers.

Teachers received instruction and training in the developing industry of commercial human spaceflight and suborbital science. The educators were introduced to aeronautics and spaceflight and experienced training that future space pilots will receive.

Their instructors included Space Shuttle Atlantis and Columbia pilot [Col. Rick Searfoss](#), Teachers in Space founder Edward Wright and Embry-Riddle faculty.

With the recent retirement of NASA's Space Shuttle era, the teachers were provided with a rare opportunity to learn about various commercial space ventures already in progress and emerging careers for their students. Experts explained the technical aspects and challenges of creating a whole new

commercial aerospace industry capable of carrying astronauts into space once again. Special topics included the design of reusable launch vehicles for suborbital and orbital flight, applied solid – liquid and hybrid propulsion systems, the aerodynamics of unpowered flight, high altitude meteorology, kinetic and potential energy management and flight simulation.

In addition to classroom lectures and tours of the Embry-Riddle campus, participants piloted a suborbital spacecraft flight simulator and manned glider flights. The gliders were pulled to altitudes of approximately 2,000 feet by tow planes. Teachers released tow lines and pilots assisted teachers with stabilizing the gliders. Teachers eventually took over controls and applied techniques and theories they learned in class.

Bartuska, who has previous flight experience, used his knowledge of bird flight patterns and air currents to keep his glider in flight. The glider experiences simulated for teachers what it will be like when commercial space planes return to earth through the atmosphere.

George will be teaching at CFAA for his fourth year in 2011-2012. He teaches aerospace technology, engineering technology, earth and space science and career technology education reading development.

He felt his experience at the professional development opportunity was practical for his work at CFAA. “I realized how essential CFAA’s role is in preparing students as future astronauts for the commercialization of space,” he said.

CFAA is an aviation-oriented high school located on the Sun N’ Fun campus of [Lakeland Linder Regional Airport](#). CFAA provides training, instruction and programs to prepare students in avionics and aerospace technology, engineering, piloting, computer-assisted design, avionics electronics and other avionics disciplines.