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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**WBAA RECEIVES \$5000 GRANT FROM WISCONSIN SPACE GRANT CONSORTIUM AND NASA FOR FLIGHT SIMULATORS AND PROGRAM FUNDING**

*Funds used to purchase desktop flight simulators and support youth aviation educational programming*

**Madison, WI, June 10** - The Willa Brown Aviation Academy ([WBAA](#)), a 501c3 non-profit organization, received a \$5000 grant earlier this spring from the Wisconsin Space Grant Consortium (WSCG) and the NASA Space Grant and College Fellowship Program to fund aviation educational programming for Madison-area youth from underserved communities.

The grant monies have so far been used to purchase desktop flight simulator equipment for use in WBAA's upcoming '[Camp Willa](#)', an aviation day camp to be held July 11-15, 2022 at the Dane County Regional Airport and Middleton Municipal Airport. Campers will experience three days of tours, presentations from aviation professionals, and hands-on activities. Campers will have the option to receive a free airplane ride through a partnership with the Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagle Program.

The simulators have also been used in outreach events in the Madison Metropolitan School District and Madison Youth Aviation Club. Additionally, remaining funds will be used to fund educational trips to EAA AirVenture Oshkosh this July as well as other aviation facilities in the region.



Simulators funded by the grant funds were used for a Wisconsin Department of Transportation educational outreach event during a Madison School Community Recreation meeting at LaFollette High School in April.

The WBAA was formed to introduce youth ages 12-17 from historically underserved communities in the area to Madison's aviation facilities, services, and community. Through this program, Madison's youth will be exposed to possible career opportunities as they begin to think about their futures.

Of the 155,000 professional aviators in the United States, only 3.4% are Black. Women make up only 5.6% and Black Women less than 1% (Source: [USA TODAY](#)). The WBAA hopes to help reverse this trend by connecting local youth to the aviation industry which is making a large push to increase workforce diversity by engaging future employees while they are in high school and college.

The WBAA is grateful to the WSCG and NASA for their support of our local youth as they pursue their aviation education.

Visit [WilliFlight.org](http://WilliFlight.org) to learn more about [Willi Brown](#)



"The material contained in this document is based upon work supported by a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) grant or cooperative agreement. Any opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of NASA."