

ATCA Bulletin

Air Traffic Control Association

No. 9, 2015

www.atca.org



ATCA Celebrates Its Members

IN THIS ISSUE:

- » Vaughn College Raises the Academic Bar with Simulation Labs
- » Flight For Life Colorado: A Pioneer of Saving Lives in the Sky
- » What's New at Cyber Day 2015
- » Aviation History Corner
- » ATCA Welcomes New Members: BPA Services and GEMS, Inc.
- » And More



VAUGHN COLLEGE Raises the Academic Bar with Simulation Labs

With a history of innovation, the New York school is training the next generation of air traffic controllers

By Kristen Knott, ATCA Writer and Editor

Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology – founded in 1932 and an ATCA member since 2006 – knows the key to sustained success in academia is reinvention. The long-standing institution added an air traffic control (ATC) simulator laboratory for students in addition to its repertoire of flight simulators.

“We want to be viewed by the ATC community as a pathway for students to pursue careers in air traffic control as well as recurrent training,” said Dr. Sharon DeVivo, president of Vaughn College.

The ATC simulator was installed in November 2013. It has five seats for radar and one tower simulator and it teaches every position – ground control, local, and approach.

The simulator replicates Tower, Terminal Radar Approaches (TRACON) and En Route operations. The instructors employ lab scenarios, designed to develop routine problem solving processes to adapt



All photos courtesy of Vaughn College



Vaughn College has a long history of incorporating simulators with their classroom instruction. Here's a breakdown:

- 1996 Frasca 142 – Generic single and multiengine simulator
- March 2009 – Frasca 241 – Cessna 172/with Garmin 1000 (glass cockpit avionics)
- March 2009 – 2 Redbird FMX – Aircraft types:
 - Cessna 172 with Garmin 1000 (glass cockpit avionics)
 - Cessna 172 with “steam gage” instruments
 - Beechcraft Baron 58
 - Piper Seneca, PA-34
- January 2010 – Paradigm Shift – CRJ-200
- November 2013 – UFA Inc. Tower and Radar Simulator – 5 radar seats
 - (Three-position tower, one pseudo pilot position, one instructor station)
- Prior to this, the college used low-definition simulators (tabletop simulators) for most training scenarios
- September 2015 - Paradigm Shift – CRJ-700 (upgrade and refurbishment of CRJ-200)

“It’s because of ATCA conferences that I got to know some of the vendors and equipment. After careful consideration, we decided to go with UFA, Inc. for their tower and radar simulations. Our labs now offer Tower, Terminal Radar, En Route and Non-Radar simulations.”

– Domenic Proscia, Vice President, Training, Vaughn College

the student controller to real-life air traffic control situations. “The whole gamut can be done in simulations here – runway incursions, noise abatement, ground support trucks, IFR, visual approach procedures, radio and transponder failures – you name it,” said Domenic Proscia, Vice President of Training at Vaughn College. “We do it in a way that replicates FAA training; a student that runs through our program gets the same type of feedback as in Oklahoma City – there’s a high level of oversight.”

Airplanes of all types and sizes are simulated – commercial, military, and general aviation aircraft – the same as the FAA’s training center in Oklahoma City, OK.

“It’s because of ATCA conferences

that I got to know some of the vendors and equipment,” says Proscia, who directly managed the simulator installation. “After careful consideration, we decided to go with UFA, Inc. for their tower and radar simulations. Our labs now offer Tower, Terminal Radar, En Route and Non-Radar simulations; students are well-versed on moving traffic.”

As one of the original 13 FAA-CTI (Collegiate Training Initiative) colleges, Vaughn is still one of the top providers of ATC training and simulation as well as other aviation education.

Vaughn is an approved Part 147 provider of aviation maintenance training, an FAA-approved flight dispatch provider, and a Part 141 ground school. They even have retired air traffic controllers teaching

their courses and simulations. Of course, being located in New York City, just steps away from La Guardia Airport, doesn’t hurt. “We have a nice pool of talent in the New York area,” says DeVivo.

“These spaces for simulation are really a showcase for our college, give our students an opportunity to practice their skills in a safe environment and allow current practitioners a lab to hone proficiencies,” says DeVivo. “We’re really surrounded by every aspect of aviation here and we are fortunate to bring that expertise to the laboratory and classroom experience.” ✈