



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Oregon Department of Aviation

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between the Oregon Department of Aviation and Lane Community College

Regarding Use of Uncrewed Aircraft Systems and Sensor Integration for Wildfire Mitigation Exploration

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by and between the Oregon Department of Aviation (ODAV) and Lane Community College (LCC), collectively referred to as the "Parties."

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to establish a cooperative framework to explore and support the deployment of uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS), Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) sensors, and visual detection technologies for wildfire mitigation, with Lane Community College serving as the academic partner in research, education, and workforce development.

II. BACKGROUND

Oregon faces increasing threats from wildfires, particularly in rural and forested regions. ODAV is developing the infrastructure and regulatory frameworks needed to integrate UAS into wildfire response and mitigation. Lane Community College operates one of Oregon's premier UAS training programs and serves as a hub for applied research and technical education. This collaboration will support innovation, workforce readiness, and public safety outcomes.

III. AREAS OF COLLABORATION

The Parties agree to collaborate in the following areas:

1. Support research, testing, and evaluation of UAS platforms and BVLOS-capable sensors for wildfire detection and suppression.
2. Integrate real-world data and case studies into LCC's UAS academic curriculum and training programs.
3. Explore the use of wildfire cameras and related technologies to support airspace deconfliction between manned and unmanned aircraft.

Oregon Department of Aviation's mission is to provide infrastructure, financial resources, and expertise to ensure a safe and efficient air transportation system.

4. Host and participate in joint field demonstrations, flight tests, and community education events.
5. Engage in statewide UAS strategy planning and workforce pipeline development through collaborative planning and stakeholder engagement.

IV. LIMITATIONS

- This MOU is non-binding and does not create legal or financial obligations for either Party.
- This MOU does not authorize operational deployment or procurement of UAS platforms.
- Either Party may withdraw from this agreement at any time with written notice.
- This agreement does not supersede any existing academic or governmental policies or regulations.

V. TERM

This MOU shall become effective upon signature of both Parties and remain in effect for a period of two (2) years, unless extended or terminated in writing.

VI. POINTS OF CONTACT

ODAV:
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Director
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Lane Community College:
Solomon Singer
Program Director, Aviation UAS Program
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VII. SIGNATURES

For the Oregon Department of Aviation (ODAV):

By: 

Name: Kenji Sugahara

Title: Director

Date: 12/10/25

Lane Community College

By: 

Name: Shelley Tinkham

Title: Vice President of Academic Affairs

Date: 10/30/25