



UNITED AIMS TO QUADRUPLE THE SIZE OF ITS FLEET OF TRAINING AIRCRAFT

News / Maintenance / Trainings



United Aviate Academy aims to potentially quadruple the size of its fleet of training aircraft, in response to the surge of applications to the country's only flight school owned by a major airline. The Academy will add 25 new, state-of-the-art [Cirrus TRAC SR20](#) training aircraft to its current fleet of 25, with the option to purchase up to 50 more.

United Aviate Academy has already received more than 12,000 applications since announcing the school in April 2021. The school officially opened in January and welcomed a historic inaugural class of future pilots, part of the airline's effort to train at least 5,000 new pilots at the school by 2030, with the goal of at least half women or people of color.

United Aviate Academy also recently purchased seven state-of-the-art FRASCA simulators, including some with 220-degree wraparound displays, with the first of these brand-new flight simulators arriving in April. These high-quality flight simulators feature hardware and software that operates exactly like the aircraft, for maximum effectiveness for students.

"We're investing in flight education as we train the next generation of United Airlines pilots, who are the future of our airline," said Bryan Quigley, United's Senior Vice President for Flight Operations for United Airlines. "These student pilots are receiving world-class flight training at

United Aviate Academy and I'm looking forward to the day when they join our current United pilots on the flight deck."

United Aviate Academy, whose corporate name is Westwind School of Aeronautics Phoenix, LLC, already has a fleet of 25 late-model Cirrus TRAC SR20 series single-engine aircraft, which feature advanced safety characteristics. This new order will add at least 25 brand-new TRAC SR20 aircraft beginning in May with options and purchase rights for up to 50 more. The SR20 features impressive capabilities that complement its stable flight characteristics. Its integrated Garmin® Perspective+ flight deck includes features found on advanced airliners such as two large flight displays, a Flight Management System keypad controller, an Electronic Stability and Protection system as well as integrated engine indication and crew alerting/warning systems.

Its durable all-composite airframe with the signature Cirrus Airframe Parachute System® makes the TRAC Series one of the safest and most versatile training airplanes available today. United Aviate Academy is also the launch partner for a significant expansion of CirrusIQ™, which allows for monitoring of flight data, enabling United Aviate Academy students and instructors to do enhanced debriefings after each lesson.

United Aviate Academy is breaking down barriers to introduce new pilots to rewarding careers. Last summer, United unveiled [United Next](#), which will revolutionize the United flying experience and add more than 500 new aircraft. United plans to hire at least 10,000 new pilots by 2030 to meet this need. United will find those pilots through targeted recruiting, strategic partnerships and scholarship and financial aid solutions.

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