LIPAD: A Life-Changing Introduction to Piloting and Aeronautical Discovery

WCC

AERONAUTICAL & TECHNOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Integration of SDGs in

☒ SDGs in student engagement activities
☒ SDGs into community activities

Focus on

☒ Goal 4 - Quality education
☒ Goal 11 - Sustainable cities and communities
☒ Goal 17 - Partnerships for the goals

What did we do?

The aviation industry plays a vital role in connecting people and places, yet for many children, the prospect of becoming a pilot remains a distant dream. To bridge this gap, WCC Aeronautical and Technological College, Inc. – Binalonan Campus, organized an outreach program designed to spark curiosity and inspire young learners to explore aviation. The initiative, aptly named LIPAD, stands for Learning and Immersive Pilot Adventure Day. The term 'lipad,' which means 'to fly' in Filipino, perfectly encapsulates the program's aim to inspire and empower participants to soar to new heights of learning and exploration.

This initiative, LIPAD, provided day-care pupils with a glimpse into the exciting world of aviation. Through hands-on activities like a guided campus tour, engaging flight simulator sessions, and an introduction to aircraft operations, the program fostered a deeper understanding of the aviation field. LIPAD served as an inspiring platform to nurture early interest in aviation-related careers, encouraging these young minds to dream big and explore the limitless possibilities that the sky holds.

Aligned with WCC ATC's commitment to community service and early childhood development, LIPAD not only introduced these young minds to the wonders of flying but also strengthened the institution's role in shaping the next generation of aviation professionals. By combining education and inspiration, the program succeeded in creating an unforgettable learning experience while planting the seeds for future aspirations in aviation.

What are the benefits and outcomes?

1. Cultivated future aviators by inspiring children to pursue careers in aviation.
2. Strengthen WCC ATC's reputations as a leader in aviation education and community outreach.
3. Build partnerships with local schools and organizations for sustained outreach.

What barriers or challenges did you encounter in embedding this aspect of the SDGs into your work and how did you overcome them?

1. **Resource Accessibility and Scheduling Conflicts:** We frequently faced issues with the availability of essential resources, particularly aircraft and flight simulators. These tools were often in use for ongoing pilot student training, leading to scheduling conflicts that impacted our program's flow.
2. **Age-Appropriate Engagement & Attention Spans:** Day-care pupils have very short attention spans and diverse learning styles. Designing activities that genuinely keep them engaged and simplify complex aviation concepts in an age-appropriate manner can be challenging.
3. **Safety Protocols & Liability Concerns:** Bringing young children into an environment that involves machinery (even static aircraft) and potentially high-tech equipment like flight simulators necessitates stringent safety protocols.

What are your conclusions and recommendations for others?

Embedding sustainability education at primary students is crucial for developing responsible future leader. We recommend the following best practices for institutions looking to implement similar initiatives:

1. **Formalize and Expand School Partnerships:** Establish official collaborations with more local schools in Binalonan and surrounding areas to broaden LIPAD's reach to a larger number of young children annually.

2. **Integrate Cutting-Edge Technologies:** Strategically incorporate advanced and engaging technologies into the program to enhance the immersive experience and deepen the understanding of aviation concepts for young participants.

3.

4. **Establish as a Sustainable Annual Flagship:** Develop LIPAD into a consistently run, self-sustaining annual outreach initiative, solidifying WCC ATC Binalonan's role in nurturing future aviation professionals.

By fostering sustainability awareness at a young age, we are empowering the next generation to take meaningful action toward achieving the SDGs.