

# Preserving aviation through education

Thanks to two Embry-Riddle alumni, Flight Training Services International (FTSI), a company dedicated to providing a comprehensive range of aviation training services, has committed \$375,000 to establish the Careers in Aviation Endowed Scholarship at Embry-Riddle.

Shawn Raker ('90, DB), president of FTSI, and Jamail Larkins ('07, DB), national spokesman and board member for Careers in Aviation (the non-profit arm of FTSI), see the gift as a way to keep the dream of flying alive and well for future generations of Embry-Riddle students.

“We wanted to not only educate and inspire, but also to assist young students financially,” says Larkins. “If we can provide more opportunities for more young students to achieve their dreams in the aviation industry, then I will know we have made a positive impact in the industry, and essentially, our economy.”

For Raker, the gift also has a personal aspect. “[It’s] an opportunity for me to give back to Embry-Riddle and to the industry that have provided a great career for me. Many people helped me unselfishly and now I want to do the same for others.”

In helping students, Raker and Larkins also have a farther-reaching aim for the gift. By creating opportunities to train aspiring aviation professionals, both hope to help ensure the future of the aviation industry.

“Our efforts often point back to Embry-Riddle, as we help young people realize that a career in aviation is possible,” says Raker. “That’s why we established the endowed scholarship - to be sure everyone understands that education is an important piece in preserving this industry.”

**Shawn Raker (left) and Jamail Larkins believe education is the key to a thriving aviation industry.**

