



NEWS MEDIA INFORMATION

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**UNITED SPACE ALLIANCE HONORED FOR SUPPORT
OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM**

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, Florida (August 21, 2009) – United Space Alliance (USA) was recently honored by two local universities for a program allowing college students to gain practical work experience while continuing their education. The University of Central Florida’s (UCF) Office of Experiential Learning selected USA as recipient of its “Employer of the Year” Award and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University recognized the company with a plaque honoring “the strong relationship that has been maintained between Embry-Riddle and United Space Alliance through a successful Cooperative Education Program.”

“For over ten years, USA has provided qualified college students with excellent hands-on experience,” said Dr. Sheri Dressler, Director of Experiential Learning at UCF. “Students have consistently reported that their experiences have been both educationally and professionally challenging and rewarding.”

Embry-Riddle’s Executive Director of Career Services, Lisa Kollar, also had high praise for USA.

“USA’s commitment has provided long-standing opportunities for Embry-Riddle students with on-the-job training and experience relating to their degree with 20 Embry-Riddle students currently in the program,” Kollar said.

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USA has been employing Cooperative Education, or co-op, students since 1999. In addition to UCF and Embry-Riddle, engineering and computer science students from the University of Florida, Florida State University, Florida Tech and a number of out of state colleges have been represented.

“USA has done an excellent job of utilizing the co-op program as a streamlined, cost-effective recruiting mechanism, hiring 56 UCF co-op graduates since January 2005,” Dressler said.

“We currently have a total of 82 co-ops working here at USA,” said Patty Solnay, College Programs Coordinator in USA Staffing Services. “The program has worked out exceptionally well.”

“We’ve been extremely pleased with the energy and new technology experience they bring to the job,” said Patty Stratton, USA’s Functional Director of Ground Operations. “The Co-op Program has been very successful for both the space program and the students.”

United Space Alliance is a world leader in space operations with extensive experience in all aspects of the field. Headquartered in Houston, USA has 10,000 employees working in Texas, Florida and Alabama. Currently, USA is applying its broad range of capabilities to NASA’s Space Shuttle, International Space Station and Constellation programs as well as to space operations customers in the commercial and international space industry sectors.

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