

## FAA Inspector Signs Applications



Pictured seated left to right: *Justin Mertins, FAA Inspector Gerald Acord, Aviation Program Coordinator Bill Archer.*

Standing, left to right: *Instructor Norm Faith, Joey Gillenwater, Brian Walden, Landon Coomer, Russell Lane, Kristy Wertz, George Cano, Ross Pilgreen, Vice Chancellor for Instruction Gary Oden.*

Federal Aviation Administration Inspector Gerald Acord traveled to Camden, Arkansas Thursday to inspect and sign aviation maintenance technician certificate application forms for the SAU Tech aviation students who have completed their training. This is one of many courtesies that Mr. Acord has extended for the students of SAU Tech since he became the school's Principle Maintenance Inspector in 2002.

An Alma, Arkansas native, Mr. Acord began his higher education path at Southern State College of Magnolia (now Southern Arkansas University). Duty called and he served the United States Army as a helicopter technician in Vietnam. After completing his service, he continued his education at a variety of schools including Spartan School of Aeronautics of Tulsa, West Ark College with an Associate of Business degree, Arkansas Tech College in Russellville with a Bachelor Science Business Administration degree, University of Arkansas majoring in Transportation, and the University of Central Arkansas achieving the Masters of Business Administration degree. Mr. Acord has worked for Roadway Motor Freight as Supervisor of Operations, Spartan School of Aeronautics as instructor, Bell Helicopters as instructor, ERA Aviation as Director of Training at both Lake Charles, Louisiana and Anchorage Alaska locations. In 1989 he went to work for the FAA and has worked as Principle Maintenance Inspector and Airworthiness Specialist at Regional and local offices, presently working out of the Flight Standards District Office in Little Rock. His work has included national plans and development of work programs for inspectors across the United States. Mr. Acord assisted in the certification of SAU Tech's Texarkana Campus Airframe and Powerplant School. He has helped guide SAU Tech in the selection of particular equipment for use in helicopter training. Of particular note to the students was his work in helping to complete an affiliation agreement between the school, Henderson University computerized testing center, and Hooten Aviation Services of Greenbriar, Arkansas. This agreement streamlines the process of written,

oral, and practical testing for the students, potentially saving time and money when graduates get ready to take their certification tests.

Upon successful completion of Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) testing, these certified technicians have the opportunity to work at a wide variety of locations. The employment outlook is good for these students. Express Jet of Shreveport was the most recent caller to the school, expressing a need for 20 - 25 A&P's. Jobs are not a problem in this field.

Aviation Program Coordinator, Bill Archer had this to say about Mr. Acord, "Gerald and I share a common goal of producing the best graduates we can to this high demand workforce. His contributions to our school in his guidance, advice and recommendations, drawing on his vast experience, have been fantastic. I could not thank Mr. Acord enough for what he has done to continually improve our school."