

Michael Mower

Executive Director of SUU Aviation / Chief Flight Instructor / FAA Designated Pilot Examiner at Southern Utah University

Cedar City, UT, US

Specializes in pilot training, FAA regulations, advanced/aerobatic helicopter flight, aviation safety, search and rescue, and lobbying

Biography

Michael Mower is the executive director, chief flight instructor, and FAA Designated Pilot Examiner (Helicopter DPE) for Southern Utah University's aviation program. Mower brings his years of service in the United States Air Force to the classroom, enriching discussions and interactions with current students. During his time in the Air Force, Mower worked in the fuels and cryogenics lab and was the lead instructor for the Honor Guard detachment at Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho. After leaving the Air Force, Mower started a research and development company specializing in advanced metals and cutting-edge heat-treating protocols. Through this research, Mower has authored or co-authored multiple patents. In 2013, Mower started SUU's aviation program with a small staff and 30 students. Under his leadership, the program has grown to 75 instructors, 25 aviation maintenance technicians, 30 administrators, and 1,000 students. He has a skilled and diverse team that can offer instruction on aircraft safety, maintenance, fixed-wing, and rotor wing. The recent growth of the aviation program has made Cedar City Regional Airport the second busiest airport in Utah. The Iron County Sheriff's Air Operation Division is operated by SUU's pilots. The program's instructors assist in aerial surveillance, pursuit, drug interdiction, and search and rescue efforts. As a veteran, Mower understands the needs of his student veterans and advocates on their behalf. As an active lobbyist for veterans' rights in Washington, D.C., Mower understands the value of developing mutually beneficial relationships and assembled a team of key senators and representatives. The team Mower has assembled successfully defended veterans' educational benefits for almost a decade and has two pieces of legislation signed into law by the President of the United States. Mike Mower trained under Chuck Aaron of Hollywood and Red Bull Fame and is now one of the few pilots in the United States that can perform aerobatic flight in a helicopter. These skills have advanced the curriculum for SUU Aviation students and elite pilots from around the world.

Industry Expertise

Airlines/Aviation, Research, Military, Airport Services, Education/Learning

Areas of Expertise

Aviation Education, Helicopter Flight, Helicopter Aerobatic Flight, FAA Regulations, Inadvertent Instrument Meteorological Conditions (IIMC), Tactical Flight, Intergovernmental relations, Federal Lobbying, Military/VA Benefits, Veteran Services, Cockpit Research Management, Aviation History, Aviation Safety and Training, Pilot Training, Aerial Search and Rescue, Commercial Aviation, Weather Development Patterns and Aviation Hazards, Physiological, Psychological, & Environmental Factors on Pilot Performance

Affiliations

Iron County Sheriff's Air Operations Division, Helicopter Association International , Utah Aerospace Pathway Program, Utah Rotor Pathway Program

Education

Southern Utah University
Bachelors Interdisciplinary Studies

Southern Utah University
Masters Interdisciplinary Studies

Accomplishments

Professional Provider of the Year
Southern Utah University

Airman of the Year
United States Air Force

Honor Guard Member of the Year
United States Air Force

Director / Chief Pilot Iron County Air Operations
Partnership with Iron County Sheriff's Department

Director / Chief Pilot Chuck Aaron Advanced Flight Academy at SUU Aviation
SUU Aviation's Chuck Aaron Academy will train pilots to prevent and safely exit unusual attitudes brought on by hazardous weather conditions. Aaron and a select group of SUU's pilots teach others how to navigate these deadly scenarios safely.

FAA Designated Pilot Examiner (Helicopter)
Federal Aviation Administration

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