

## Aviation center gains grant

Gov. Jim Douglas has presented a \$30,000 grant to help pay for initial work on the Burlington Aviation Technical Training Center to train future aircraft maintenance workers.

Douglas also declared the month of February "General Aviation Appreciation Month."

The governor made the presentation during Thursday's Vermont Aerospace and Aviation Open House at Burlington International Airport's Heritage Aviation Facility. Vermont Aerospace & Aviation is a division of the Vermont Chamber of Commerce.

About 200 people at-

tended the event, including Lt. Gov. Brian Dubie, who founded the VAAA in 2006.

"Our national security, our economic vitality, and our national mobility rely on a strong aerospace and aviation sector. Similarly, Vermont's aviation sector plays a vital role in our state's economic well-being and public safety," Dubie said.

According to the VAAA, general aviation contributes \$274 million to Vermont's economy annually.

Dubie said commercial aviation provides 9,369 jobs, which generate more than \$257 million in wages.

Free Press staff report