

SPRINGFIELD

STCC offers class for business use of drones

Springfield Technical Community College in November will offer an introductory three-day course designed for individuals seeking drone pilot training for business use.

Intro to sUAS (small unmanned aircraft systems) will be taught on Saturdays – Nov. 3, 10 and 17 – between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at STCC.

The Federal Aviation Administration has released regulations that pave the way for expanded commercial use of the aircraft systems commonly called drones.

As part of the guidelines, drone pilots are required to pass the FAA's remote pilot

knowledge test "Unmanned Aircraft - General" to receive an FAA remote pilot certification and be able to use drones for commercial purposes.

STCC's comprehensive 18-hour Intro to sUAS course provides hands-on skills training for aspiring business operators to fly drones safely and efficiently and helps them prepare for FAA certification.

Industry applications include construction,

agriculture, insurance, real estate, public safety, inspections, law enforcement, ecommerce, environmental conservation and mapping, to name a few.

"Our drone class is designed for businesses that want to capture this technology's potential," said Elliot M. Levy, senior director for the Workforce Development Center at STCC. "This is an opportunity for people working in a wide range of fields to get training that will give

their business an edge."

Intro to sUAS prepares students for the FAA remote pilot knowledge test and eventual FAA certification. The course also is designed to offer comprehensive insight into different types of flight systems and their capabilities, safe and legal flying practices, market opportunities and applications, and hands-on piloting skills.

Each participant in the Intro to sUAS course receives a quadcopter with a camera

and a flight simulator along with their course material. The course is capped off with a competition where participants demonstrate flying skills while navigating an obstacle course.

STCC has partnered with SkyOp to offer the course, which will be taught by an FAA-certified SkyOp instructor.

For more information, visit stcc.edu/drones or call the Workforce Development Center at 413-755-4225.

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ELLIOT M. LEVY, SENIOR DIRECTOR FOR THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CENTER AT STCC