**Student Information**  
Name: Soon-Jo Chung  
Faculty/Unit/Department: Assistant Professor  
Phone: [(217) 244-2737](tel:%28217%29%20244-2737)  
Project Leader Email: [sjchung@illinois.edu](mailto:sjchung@illinois.edu)  
Participants: Erik Lopez  
Participant Emails: [ealopez2@illinois.edu](mailto:ealopez2@illinois.edu)  
  
**Project Information**  
Project Name: Student Aircraft Builders  
Project Topic:  
Project Summary: What makes a great student? Aside from having good grades and a resume to match there has been a paradigm shift with regards to student expectations. Students must now have research, leadership and even past internships under their belt to be considered successful. Student Aircraft Builders (SAB) is an organization on campus solely dedicated to fostering student success via the construction of a full sized aircraft. In the past semester alone, three reputable aerospace entities, namely SpaceX, Northrop Grumman and AIAA have come by to visit our workspace. SpaceX raved about our project management strategies and coined us the best student run organization they had ever come across. The director of AIAA, the world's largest aerospace organization, was also extremely impressed with our progress and methodologies.  From our executive board alone, our students have worked for four different NASA Centers, two different Boeing sites, Rolls Royce, along with an engine and civil engineering company as well. In less than a year, Student Aircraft Builders has developed a sustainable method for cultivating student success. If our purpose was to simply build an airplane, we could accomplish the feat by the end of the semester. We have our eyes set on a much more difficult goal. We want to teach untrained students how to build an airplane and in the process they will learn how to interact with a team, lead a group of students, read technical drawings and much more. Provided we have continued support from sponsors and the university, we are certain that we can perpetually create successful student leaders who will continue to benefit our campus as a whole. From the skills gained through our executive board, four of our members have already gone on to lead their own student organization on campus. SAB has also been able to establish several partnerships with organizations on campus. We frequently reach out when we need expertise when it comes to subjects such as computer science, marketing and business relations. Aside from our success as a whole, each of SAB's individual teams have their own merit. Project Management is the team which takes untrained students and teaches them how create presentations, lectures and prepare drawings so that other untrained students can build an airplane. So long as the project exists, new students will come through the organization and learn the skills of those that will be graduating. When it comes to SAB, sustainability is much more than developing green technology, which we eventually hope to do. We are continually developing student leaders in a systematic fashion who will go on to benefit the campus as a whole.  
Student Aircraft Builders, creating sustainable education through the shared vision of building an airplane, from the ground up.  
With regards to funding, we have been able to fundraise money for the purchase of the airplane components and have also obtained a hangar at Willard Airport in which construction is taking place. We are requesting one of three different funding levels:  
$5,000- Quarter-scale, self-designed alternative energy glider via automatic thermal sensing powered by zinc-air battery.  
$10,000- Advanced aircraft research in the areas of alternative propulsion, turbulence damping and collision avoidance.  
$20,000- Full funding for second full sized airplane, allowing a completely new team of students to work from scratch and build individual and team success.  
  
Student Involvement: Our philosophy is simple: Everyone can build; anyone can lead. This is the foundation on which we build not only our plane, but also our team. Our interested members are not limited by what already exists, we are a resource students can use to expand their own interest. Participating students range from all over campus, totaling 18 different majors and over a hundred students. With all the interest we have developed, we have been able to establish a partnership with the Aerospace Engineering Department in which Student Aircraft Builders is now offered as a class. Over time, students have really come to adopt this project, this vision, as their own. A project manager even composed a piano piece and lyrics expressing her gratitude and appreciation towards SAB. When building an airplane, one comes to realize that the sky is no longer the limit. Our members are not deterred by minor setbacks, our goals are set high and are continually expanding. For years to come, SAB will continue building great students which will not only benefit our organization but the Illinois community as a whole.  
Timeframe: Two Semesters  
Budget: 20,000