

# NORTH DAKOTA AVIATION HALL OF FAME

**Gordon W. Person**

**Inducted: 2001**



Gordon Person's aviation career began in 1953 in Britton, SD. He earned his private pilot license in 1954, and holds the following FAA ratings: A & P, IA, DME, WTE. Gordy was a designated Accident Prevention Counselor for the FAA, from 1978 to 1996. As a leader in developing aircraft mechanic training in ND, Gordy managed Kundert Aviation School of Fargo from 1965 to 1973. In 1974 he founded Dakota Aero Tech. Inc. Under his supervision over 2,000 students earned their A & P ratings. Those students are placed throughout the aviation industry; many of them hold top maintenance supervisory positions with major airlines. A common comment from his students is, "At Dakota Aero Tech, Gordy taught me all I know."

Gordy guided the initial start-up of North Dakota State University's Aviation Mechanic/Engineering Training program. The program is designed to teach students the critical aspects of maintaining and inspecting older aircraft while earning an FAA A&P mechanic rating along with a NDSU engineering degree.

For over twenty years, Gordy traveled across the Dakotas and Minnesota promoting aviation at High School Career Day programs. He was instrumental in starting the North Dakota Professional Aircraft Mechanics Association (NDPAMA) in 1978. Gordy was NDPAMA's Mechanic of the Year in 1970, 1973 and 1983. The FAA honored him with Rocky Mountain Region Special Citation for his efforts in maintenance education.

Gordy was a leader during the establishment of the North Dakota Aviation Council in 1983. This was a cooperative effort by all of the industries separate associations to create an umbrella group fostering growth and cooperation within the state aviation industry. This organization brought together the many facets of the industry into a focused effort to create one voice for the aviation community. Gordy was Chairman for the first two years of the organization and has served four additional terms since.

His life-long dedication to aviation is a beacon for those that will follow.