



Amelia Earhart

July 24, 1897 – January 5, 1939

Amelia Earhart is known as one of the world's most celebrated aviators. During her career, Earhart achieved at least sixteen record-breaking flights, including eleven aviation "firsts" with six for anyone regardless of gender.

Even though Amelia Earhart is not from Indiana, she will forever be connected with Indiana history because of her work at Purdue University as a "Counselor on Careers for Women," to guide young women in their academic careers and toward the workforce. She also became a chief consultant in aeronautical engineering and spent the last two years of her known life working at Purdue.

In 1936, when Earhart decided to attempt a flight around the world, the Purdue Research Foundation supplied funding through private benefactors. With those funds, she purchased a Lockheed Electra, naming it the Flying Laboratory. Purdue gave her a leave of absence and unrestricted use of its flight and engineering facilities to prepare. On July 2, 1937, Earhart and her navigator, Captain Fred Noonan, disappeared over the Pacific Ocean. She was declared dead in absentia on January 5, 1939.

Earhart has become a symbol of perseverance for American women. Her accomplishments has inspired generations of female aviators, including more than 1,000 women pilots in the Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASPs) who flew during World War II.

For more information about Amelia Earhart, go to:
<http://www.ameliacarhart.com/>.

For more information about *Writing Her Story*, go to:
<http://www.in.gov/icw/2440.htm>.

Photo: The Guardian (22 May 2009). *A Unique Distinction for Amelia Earhart*. Retrieved from: <http://www.theguardian.com/books/2009/may/23/from-the-archive-amelia-earhart>.


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