

Engineering Profs Fly to Teach

Tuesday and Thursday afternoons of each week a twin-engine aircraft leaves the runway at Lubbock Municipal Airport with five Texas Tech professors aboard for educational missions in either the Borger-Pampa area or the Midland-Odessa section of the state.

These are the instructors who help make up Tech's "flying teacher program" in the college's engineering school.

The students, doing graduate level work, are employees of companies who wish to further their education to keep up with the changing times.

Robert L. Newell, associate dean of the engineering school, explains that the program is being carried out through the extension service of the college, but the main expense of the training is being paid for by industry.

During the fall semester of 1966, four professors were flying to the Pampa-Borger area to teach 58 students three courses. Approximately 20 employees participated in the Midland-Odessa area.



Five Texas Tech professors who are participating in the extension school's "flying teacher" program are Dr. James H. Lawrence, Dr. A. G. Oberg, Dr. Richard A. Dudek, Dr. H. R. Heichelheim and Dr. Donald J. Helmers.

"Win" System Approved

This "pilot program" in the next few years will be replaced by an educational television network spanning West Texas which will link at least 14 colleges and universities in a massive video-audio exchange of teaching talent.

Dubbed the Western Information Network, the system will allow professors to teach students at any other school via a two-way TV hookup. Industrial firms also will participate, using university professors to keep their employees abreast of the latest advances in any particular field.

Dr. John R. Bradford, Dean of the School of Engineering at Texas Tech and originator of the WIN concept, said the idea began developing more than 18 months ago when Tech was approached by industry asking that graduate-level engineering courses be taught their employees. Instituting the educational TV network will make advanced training available to every interested industry in West Texas. Dr. Bradford said, "Courses can be taught between a senior and junior college; smaller universities can take advantage of the talents of professors at larger universities, and informational services such as libraries and computer

centers can instantly exchange data."

The problem of continuing education is not confined to engineering, Dr. Bradford stresses. All professions and trades are being influenced by today's information explosion and are experiencing an education problem.

"To make WIN self-supporting," Dr.

Bradford said, "we will charge a nominal fee to those taking the courses with the remainder of the operating cost coming from private monies." Dr. Bradford said WIN could be the genesis of a statewide educational network and one which could possibly become interstate.



Dr. John R. Bradford, Dean of the School of Engineering, and Mr. Robert L. Newell, assistant dean, look over plans for the WIN system.