



# Washington Aerospace Training & Research Center



## **Edmonds Community College/NAC Grant Press Release**

Edmonds Community College (EdCC) in partnership with the National Aviation Consortium (NAC) was awarded \$1.8 million from the U.S. Department of Labor Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College Career Training (TAACCCT) Grant Program. The grant is based on the training developed by EdCC and 180 Skills that is offered by the Washington Aerospace Training & Research Center (WATR). The WATR Center has been identified as a national model for its method of delivering in-demand industry driven training that helps fill the skills and workforce gaps in aerospace.

“This grant will focus on training for TAACCCT eligible dislocated workers, veterans and others seeking work in the aviation industry,” said Brad McGuire, EdCC’s NAC Project Coordinator. “The WATR Center was chosen due to its proven 12 week model of accelerated training in Washington State. Since its first graduating class in August 2010, this training has led to over 800 WATR alumnae working in 50 aerospace companies.” Currently WATR provides training for the following aerospace certificates: Assembly Mechanic, Electrical Assembly Mechanic, Tooling Mechanic, and Quality Assurance.

The NAC partnership focuses on aviation employers as the central driving force in identification and standardization of required competencies and skills to help close the skills gap in manufacturing. The five colleges in the NAC consortium are Edmonds Community College in Lynnwood, WA; Guilford Technical Community College in Jamestown, NC; Ivy Tech Community College in Indianapolis, IN; Tulsa Community College in Tulsa, OK, and Wichita Area Technical College in Wichita, KS. The consortium’s primary objective is to provide accelerated training to fill the current jobs that remain open due to an unskilled workforce in five states representing 35 counties.

Locally the NAC grant will be used to enhance student support services, veteran recruitment, student and employer tracking technology, and job search services for students. “It is amazing what WATR has already accomplished and the NAC grant will allow us to do more,” McGuire said.

For more information on the grant, certificates or customized training offered by WATR, please call 425.347.8928.