

2012 Third Quarter



Aviation Technical Services “Our Work is Our Signature”



Aviation Technical Services (ATS) - A Taurus Aerospace Group Company was selected as Washington Aerospace Training & Research Center's (WATR) Company of the Quarter for 2012. ATS, started in 1970, is a leading third-party, single-site, transport aircraft maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) provider in North America. “Our Work is Our Signature” is the slogan, developed by a mechanic that expresses the pride behind each task performed on each aircraft repair.

The partnership between ATS and WATR, flourished after a meeting at a job fair in Everett. Linda Armstrong, Manager-Human Resources for ATS stated, “In the beginning, I was skeptical of the quality of the 12 week short-certificate program. That was before I began interviewing applicants from the WATR program. I was very impressed by their knowledge and attitude.” Following that meeting, Linda shared that she toured the WATR Center, reviewed its curriculum, and talked to the staff. After hiring twenty-five students from the WATR program, Linda and ATS are now actively recruiting from WATR.

ATS has a very clear focus on the value that it brings to its customers and employees. ATS prides itself on its long-term partnerships with several major airline carriers. “It is the longevity of partnerships that has helped build our business and retain our people even during slow economic times,” said Linda. ATS is proud of its tenured workforce averaging 14 years of service. ATS offers employee support programs, like continuing

education for employee development for new licensing, certifications, and college. ATS credits its work environment built on teamwork, ethics, fairness, and a positive get-it-done attitude for their success. The company actively recruits veterans and other qualified workers who have transferable aviation technical skills that fit the MRO industry.

ATS is the second largest aerospace employer in Snohomish County. ATS supports the community by donating money, gifts, and time to a number of charitable organizations. Linda states simply that, “we give and support our local community where we live and work.”

ATS supports WATR in a number of ways, including recruiting, serving on it's Curriculum Partners panel, and supporting a number of industry associations. Matt Yerbic, President and CEO, was one of the featured speakers at the WATR facility expansion ceremony.

“We are extremely proud to recognize ATS as our company for the Third Quarter of 2012, and hope that the relationship between ATS and WATR will be one of the long partnerships that both organizations can talk about for decades to come,” said Larry Cluphf, Director, WATR Center.

Sno-Isle Tech Skills Center Pilot Program First Graduates



The end of the school year for high school seniors represents a time of excitement in anticipation of graduation and moving on to new life journeys. In addition to graduating high school, May 31, 2012 was graduation day for the first group of seniors who completed the

Karen Coulombe, instructor for the Robotics and Electronics Technology stated that the students performed remarkably in the pilot program.

Since completing the first certificate, one student has continued working to complete the on-line portion of the Aerospace Manufacturing Assembly Mechanic certificate. He is starting his lab portion to complete the entire program in preparation for full-time employment in the aerospace industry. The other students plan to follow this path as well.

Washington Aerospace Training and Research Center (WATR) pilot program.

Earlier this year, WATR partnered with Sno-Isle Tech Skills Center to begin a new program aimed at attracting graduating high-school students for careers in aerospace. Five students enrolled and completed the Aerospace Manufacturing Core Certificate program.

Congratulations to Seth Hettinger, Casey Hornberger, Chris Jenkins, Dalton Throndsen, and Christian Rader for their dedication and successful completion of the program. They are the first high school group to complete the curriculum and have set the bar very high for other students around the state. This program gives high school seniors interested in aerospace a jump start to their career.

Facility Expansion Ceremony



The official ribbon cutting ceremony of the Washington Aerospace Training and Resource Center (WATR) facility expansion on June 28, 2012 marked the two year anniversary of the center's grand opening. Gov. Chris Gregoire cut the ribbon for the facility expansion. "We need the WATR Center to come back in two years and expand again," stated Gregoire to nearly 100 attendees of local and state politicians, educators and community members." The Governor also took the opportunity to announce that Forbes Magazine had named "Snohomish-King County region as the leader for American manufacturing."

Dr. Jean Hernandez, President of Edmonds Community College which operates the WATR Center, spoke about the 12 week, short-certificate program stating that "we are getting students jobs" as she delivered the job placement numbers for WATR graduates in companies.

Wayne Brown, Director, Operations - Manufacturing and Quality at Boeing stated, "the demand for trained aerospace workers isn't likely to stop soon, with Boeing and suppliers

speeding up production of commercial jets. Boeing hired roughly 10,000 new employees in Washington in 2011 and has added another 3,000 so far in 2012. We absolutely need the talent."

Linda Lanham, Executive Director for the Aerospace Futures Alliance – recognized and thanked all of the elected officials who were in attendance for their support of the WATR Center and aerospace industry in Washington.

Matt Yerbic, President and CEO of Aviation Technical Services (ATS), spoke about the company's growth, the 25 employees that ATS hired from the WATR program, and the need for quality employees in the future.

The facility expansion will allow the WATR center to accommodate new students and to expand its offerings of short-term certificates of completion to include: Aerospace Manufacturing Core, Aerospace Manufacturing Assembly Mechanic, Aerospace Electrical Assembly Mechanic, Aerospace Manufacturing Quality Assurance, and Aerospace Manufacturing Tooling Mechanic. "The expansion allows us to provide more opportunities for hands-on training in our labs for current programs and add classroom space for new industry-driven, in-demand training," said WATR director Larry Cluphf.

Veterans Outreach and Partnerships

President Lincoln's promise: "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan" by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's veterans.



A July 2, 2012 US News MSNBC report, "Veterans Latest Battlefield: College," explores the challenges that many veterans face when seeking education and training programs that will help them fulfill their dreams of starting a new career. The article advises Veterans to use caution when choosing from the thousands of educational and training programs that are advertised when they separate from active duty.

While attending a job fair on April 10, 2012 which drew hundreds forming long lines at the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Marysville, we heard the same story repeated by many veterans preparing for discharge, "I am looking for stable employment opportunities in this economy," stated Raphael Madison, Marketing and Sales Manager for the Business Training Center of Edmonds Community College.

On that day Madison was pleased to say, "that all of the Washington Aerospace Training & Resource Center (WATR) certificate programs are GI Bill approved," which brought comfort to those who stopped by our booth. Military veterans are aware of the number of programs that have lost the GI Bill-approved status. "The 12-week WATR program offers many advantages over longer

licensing and training programs to help military veterans transition quicker into aerospace jobs," states Madison.

The WATR Center coordinates with Edmonds Community College's Veteran Resource Center office to prequalify and register veterans through the GI Bill process before entering our programs. We are proud of the high success rate of veterans in the WATR program who graduated from our certificate programs. In addition, we are hearing that aerospace suppliers are looking to hire military veterans because of their transferable skills.

WATR is seeking to build partnerships with a number of veteran organizations like the J9 Transition Service Center at Camp Murray, WorkSource Veterans Services, Military to Manufacturing programs, military job fairs and advertising on military bases.

We are proud of the growing number of military veterans who have graduated from the WATR Certificate of Completion programs and are now working in the aerospace industry.

Governor Gregoire with WATR student Michael Bourgeois, a veteran from JBLM

