

## 2013 Second Quarter: Newsletter

### Over 700 Suppliers Looking for Skilled Workers

In Washington State there are over 700 aerospace suppliers, making it the global center for aerospace innovation and commercial aircraft products. These suppliers are expanding to support increasing aerospace manufacturer's world-wide production demands and are currently looking for qualified skilled workers to fill positions.

Economists and industry analysts predict that due to aging aircraft, improving fuel efficiency, and increasing passenger flight travel demand, the current 8.2% annual increase in new airplane production will continue over the next several years.

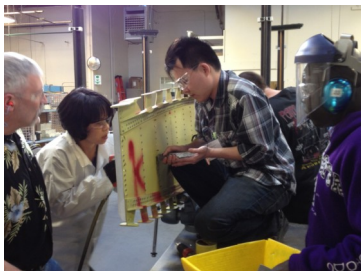
"Commercial jetliners, by far are the largest civil aero segment, and deliveries in 2012 expanded by a near record 18% by value over 2011," stated Richard Aboulafia, Vice President Teal Group (Aerospace and Defense Market Analysts). (Source: *Richard Aboulafia News Letter: 1/11/13 – Airplane Finance*)

Recent surveys of midsize to large aerospace suppliers in the Puget Sound area are reflecting optimism as well. Below are a few excerpts from recent publications:

- **Aviation Technical Services**, provides maintenance, repair and overhaul services for commercial and military aircraft. According to an ATS news release, the company plans to occupy a 102,000-square-foot hangar at the south end of the Grant County International Airport and will add an additional 100 jobs at its Moses Lake location over the next two years. (Source: *3/27/13, Columbia Basin Herald*)

- **Orion Industries** is a leader in manufacturing and precision metal fabrication for the aerospace, defense, automotive, medical, and marine industries. Orion will be moving 265 employees to a new 100,000 square foot facility to be built in Auburn. Orion's forecasts continued year-after-year growth due, in part, to Boeing's forecasts and seven-year global backlog of airplane orders. (Source: *City of Auburn 11/7/12*)

- **Hill AeroSystems Inc.**, supplies the maintenance and repair market. President Steve Hill says he expects business to double in the next three years. Hill employs about 160 people in Enumclaw. "Our intent is to grow, add facilities and infrastructure, and also continue with additional investment acquisitions," stated Hill. "We think our business is very strong and appears to be moving upwards." (Source: *Puget Sound Business Journal 4/12/12*)



### National Aviation Consortium

Dr. Jean Hernandez, President of Edmonds Community College, greeted members and community supporters of

the National Aviation Consortium (NAC) as they held their first kickoff meeting in Everett, WA on April 3, 2013. NAC Grant partners (Wichita Technical College, Tulsa Community College, Guilford Technical College, and Ivy Tech Community College) and representatives from Snohomish Workforce Development Council, WorkSource (Snohomish and King County), Boeing, local colleges and community organizations attended the meeting.

The national grant's goal is to serve 2,505 students in five states by providing training to prepare them for jobs in aerospace manufacturing. Locally, the grant will be used to enhance student support services, veteran recruitment, student and employer tracking technology, and job search services for 500 students.

Jennifer Mc Nelly, President of the Manufacturing Institute, led the discussion by stating that 82% of manufacturers cannot find skilled workers. This has led to 600,000 jobs going unfulfilled across the U.S. "Educating manufacturers about the importance of talent-driven innovation and building support for industry-recognized training as an effective means to close the manufacturing skills gap will be a major outcome," said Mc Nelly. She stated that "The Washington Aerospace Training and Research Center (WATR) operated by Edmonds Community College, has a proven success model of industry-driven training, and will be used as the national model for the other colleges."

In September of 2012, 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. This grant, spread over four years, is based upon the training developed by EdCC and 180 Skills that is offered by the Washington Aerospace Training & Research Center (WATR). The WATR Center was 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 jobs in the aviation industry," said Brad McGuire, EdCC's NAC Project Coordinator. "

## Edmonds Community College honored by The Boeing Company for excellent performance



Edmonds Community College – Business Training Center (BTC) was a recipient of a “Boeing Performance Excellence Award for 2012.”

The performance award recognize Boeing suppliers that meet or exceed the quality, on-time delivery, post-delivery support and affordability goals, while demonstrating the ability to anticipate and respond to changing requirements. Each year, Boeing purchases services from more than 23,000 suppliers around the world.

The Edmonds BTC instructors are a supplier of training services that are tailored to meet specific job codes that prepare employees to perform their duties in building the Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

Larry Cluphf, Executive Director of the Business Training Center, represented Edmonds at Boeing’s annual suppliers’ awards recognition conference in San Diego, CA on April 19, 2013. The award recognized Edmonds exceptional performance and contributions as a supplier to Boeing during 2012.

Edmonds Community College is proud to be recognized as a key Boeing partner.

## The WATR Continues Partnership With SNO-ISLE Tech Skills Center

Building on the success of last year’s pilot program, Mukilteo School District’s Sno-Isle Tech Skills Center is once again partnering with the Washington Aerospace Training and Research Center (WATR) to offer 14 high school students the opportunities to enroll in its Aerospace Manufacturing Core Skills Program. The students will earn college credits while earning WATR’s Core Skills Certificate.

By offering the WATR program, Sno-Isle students are given the opportunity to obtain real life exposure to jobs and careers in high tech aerospace manufacturing. The skills learned in this course are applicable to multiple jobs in aerospace, marine, and other careers.

The Core Certificate provides the foundation for high school graduates seeking careers in aerospace. Upon completion, credits earned from WATR’s certificate programs are transferable and can be applied to other Material Science programs (Manufacturing, Quality, and Electronics two-year degree and transfer options). Students from the Sno-Isle cohort can get a “head start” on their manufacturing pathway at Edmonds Community College.

## A Young Adult’s Perspective on the Aerospace Industry

Growing up in the Greater Seattle area, I’ve been molded to believe that Boeing is the only airplane manufacturer, that is until the Blue Angels come to town and take over during Seafair each summer.



Recently, I had the opportunity to intern with the Washington Aerospace Training & Research Center (WATR). This experience allowed me to talk to high school students about what they knew about aerospace. They all came up with the same one-word answer: Boeing. This wasn’t a surprise since Boeing is the leading aerospace company in Washington State. In talking to students, it became clear that most young people’s perspective is based on relatives who work for Boeing. I have a fondness for Boeing, the planes they create, and the economic support they provide for our communities.

If there’s only one lesson I’ve learned over the past few weeks, it is the aerospace industry is vast and cannot be contained to one company. For young people looking for a career in the aerospace industry, I’ve learned about a plethora of opportunities in aerospace with other local manufacturers and suppliers.

Boeing is an assembly factory. Therefore, in order for Boeing to create a plane, it needs parts and tools. Hundreds of local suppliers build the parts and tools and they too need employees. I also learned that Washington’s local suppliers are supplying parts for all aircraft manufacturers worldwide. There are many other aircraft manufacturing companies who need similar parts.

One of the goals of the WATR program is to educate young adults about job opportunities where qualified candidates can find stable employment. There are many employers who are looking to hire workers in this area, but there aren’t enough qualified job seekers applying for their positions.

I’ve discovered the WATR program is great for young adults who don’t want to pursue a four-year education, who want a learning environment outside the traditional classroom, or who may want to find a solid job just out of high school. Though nothing in this life is guaranteed, with over a 70% job placement rate, there’s a very good chance anyone with the determination and skill to learn a trade will find themselves with a fantastic career after completing a WATR aerospace certificate.

Submitted by Jessica Pair, EdCC, Student Intern