WASHINGTON AEROSPACE TRAINING & RESEARCH CENTER

2013 Third Quarter: Newsletter

National Career Readiness Certificate

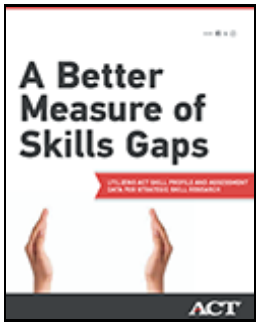
The National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) measures the level of workplace employability skills a person has in applied mathematics, locating information, and reading for information. The goal of the certificate is to offer efficient matching of talent with work that helps people find great jobs and helps companies find skilled workers, thus allowing our nation's economy to grow and prosper. The certification is used across all sectors of the economy to help employers assess potential employees "real world" skills that are critical to job success.

The NCRC measures a combination of cognitive skills with measures of work-related behaviors or soft skills. The results provides for greater accuracy in predicting an individual's potential for success at work or in training. Launched in 2006, today more than 1.7 million NCRC certificates have been issued in 40 states. This portable credential demonstrates a certain level of achievement.

In the Spring of 2013, the NCRC approved the Washington Aerospace Training & Research Center (WATR) and Edmonds Community College's Business Training Center (BTC) as new testing sites. On June 20, 2013, WATR began NCRC testing to students at its Paine Field location.

The NCRC is now offered to students as a stand-alone certification or as part of the WATR Aerospace Manufacturing Core Certification. The four-hour assessment is provided to students in two two-hour increments. There is no additional fee for the NCRC for students enrolled in WATR programs. The fee for those not enrolled in our program is $50.00, which is used to cover the cost for the testing.

A number of local school districts are also considering offering the NCRC to graduating students to help prepare them for today's job market.



If you are interested in learning more about the NCRC, contact us at (425) 347-8928.

WATR's First Out Of State Student

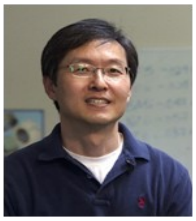
Daehong (Bill) Jin's background is in Operations Management. In Lexington, MA he worked in facility management and maintenance at a local prep school. Bill completed a journeyman electrician certificate program. After being laid off, he and his wife started a successful family dry cleaning business, but Bill's dream was to build airplanes. Even as a child, he was fascinated by airplanes. "I use to lay in the park and look up at the sky watching airplanes fly."

Bill often spoke of his passion, receiving encouragement and support from his wife and family, he decided to pursue his dream. He spent months researching aerospace training programs across the country. He discussed his goals with his brother-in-law who is retired from Boeing in Everett, who suggested that he research aerospace training programs around Seattle. Bill flew to Seattle in February of 2013, where he visited several schools and researched training programs.

After extensive research, Bill selected the Aerospace Electrical Assembly Mechanic Certificate program at WATR. He felt the short term training was his best option for pursuing his dream. During his training Bill stayed with family in Everett while his wife remained in Lexington operating their dry business.

"In class, everything I learned was new and interesting for me. I was surprised at the variety of tools, testers, materials, drawings, specifications, and documentation processes used for aircraft fabrication and installation. The class instilled the importance of responsibility and quality of work by demonstrating how a simple small mistake can have catastrophic consequences".

"I really appreciate WATR for providing me with such a quality training program. The instructors are highly-experienced, classes are well-prepared, and all the staff is very friendly. In addition, WATR offered me the opportunity to obtain my National Career Readiness Certification (NCRC) as part of the course, which was an extra benefit for me. My next step is to pursue a career in aerospace. We plan to relocate to the Seattle area permanently." Bill graduated in June 2013.



Edmonds Community College-Business Training Center
425.347-8928 washingtonaerospace.com 3008 100th St. SW, Everett, WA 98204

EDMONDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Aerospace Tooling Mechanic Certificate

Tool making requires a high degree of accuracy, critical thinking and analytical problem-solving skills to create one-of-a-kind tools and parts. Toolmakers are specialists in their line of work for a number of industries. These skilled workers collaborate with machinist, welders, mechanics and engineers to define, create and validate tooling.

Toolmakers produce tools and machinery that cut and form metals or other materials. Some tooling jobs require creating jigs and fixtures, which are used to hold material in precision alignment when it is stamped or drilled. They also produce gauges, measuring devices and other shop aids as well. Their work requires measuring the material pieces for cutting, drilling or boring, and continually verifying that the tool meets its specifications. Other skills include putting the pieces together and finishing the tool by filing, grinding and/or polishing. Some toolmakers design tools themselves, while others use blueprints or computer aides.

As a large number of Toolmakers approach retirement age, the industry is scrambling to prepare new toolmakers. The Bureau of Labor Statistics states that "there are more openings than qualified toolmakers to fill them."

To address the growing demand for toolmakers, the Washington Aerospace Training and Research Center (WATR) launched the Aerospace Tooling Mechanic Certificate in July 2012.

WATR students completing the tooling program have received rigorous training in theory and application relevant to the aerospace tooling industry. The Tooling Certificate is offered at both the Paine Field and the Renton Technical College locations.

We are proud of the large number of incumbent workers and new students to the industry who are seeking WATR's Tooling Certification.

More information about the Tooling Certificates is available on our website.www.washingtonaerospace.com

The Washington Aerospace Loan Program

More than one thousand aerospace related businesses operate in Washington State. These companies employ over 96,000 skilled workers (WA Economic Revenue and Forecast Council, 2012). For Washington State to maintain its position as a world leader in the aerospace industry, it must meet the growing demand for specialized workers at various skill and education levels. The Washington Aerospace Training and Research Center (WATR) is addressing some of theses training needs.

To assist with the cost of training potential employees, Washington State's Legislators developed the Aerospace Student Loan Program (ALP). The loan provides tuition assistance for financially eligible students enrolled in the state's aerospace training programs. This is crucial as Washington's aerospace industry is a major contributor to the state's economy.

The ALP program was launched during fiscal year 2011-12, with a $250,000 appropriation from the state General Fund. The program is operating with a $1.2 million appropriation in 2012-13. In the recently passed 2013-14 budget, lawmakers provided an additional $2.5 million dollars to continue the ALP Program over the next two years.

Due to the high success rate of students receiving jobs in the industry after training at WATR, ALP loans are in high demand. The loan program is critical as standard financial-aid sources are not available to students in short certificate programs (less than two terms). Recipients of loans are given a six-month grace period to obtain work prior to beginning repayments. Loans must be fully repaid within three years. The interest rate is fixed at the Federal Stafford Direct Loan program interest rate at the time the recipient's promissory note is signed. That interest rate currently is 6.8 percent for unsubsidized loans.

As loans are repaid, funds will be issued to new applicants in future years. The following website will provide information on qualifications and how to apply for the ALP loan:

http://www.wsac.wa.gov/PayingForCollege/StateAid/Aerospace