

WASHINGTON AEROSPACE TRAINING & RESEARCH CENTER

2014 First Quarter: Newsletter

2013 Awards & Recognitions



Boeing Performance Award: For the third consecutive year, Edmonds Community College - Business Training Center received a Boeing Performance Excellence Award. The Boeing Company issues the award annually to recognize suppliers who have achieved superior performance. Edmonds Community College BTC provides training to Boeing Commercial Airplane employees. From Oct. 1, 2012 to Sept. 30, 2013, Edmonds earned a Silver composite performance rating for each month of the 12-month performance period.

Edmonds Community College is one of 459 contractors, out of several thousand suppliers, who received the Silver level of recognition.

Popular Mechanics Magazine: Edmonds Community College's Washington Aerospace Training & Research Center program was featured in the September, 2013 issue of Popular Mechanics. WATR was one of "six creative new paths to great careers" recognized in this issue. The six innovative programs were highlighted based on their low cost and high success rate of graduates obtaining employment.

Mike Rowe (Dirty Jobs) is featured in the article discussing the importance of students entering the trades and manufacturing. The article talks about programs that are helping to fill the skills gap and reestablish the pride and workmanship of the trades. Mike's push is to have students get into great paying jobs without huge college debt.

Bellwether Award: The Bellwether Award gives recognition for trendsetting institutions which develop outstanding programs and practices. Community Colleges are selected based on their ability to address the needs of the future workforce, identify potential gaps, and develop recommendations for policymakers. The award promotes cutting-edge programs that other colleges might find worthy of replicating.

For the second time in three years, the Washington Aerospace Training & Research (WATR) Center was recognized as a Bellwether Award finalist in the Workforce Development category. The Center selection is based on its unique, customer-driven education model which addresses the aerospace industry's need for a trained workforce.

2013 – A Year In Review

The Washington Aerospace Training and Research (WATR) Center had a busy year in 2013. In just over three years, WATR reached a new milestone with more than 1,100 WATR graduates obtaining employment in over 80 aerospace companies. In addition, WATR continues to provide training to incumbent workers in the industry and customized training for companies. Below are additional highlights from 2013:



The WATR Tooling Certificate Program was implemented into the Employee Requested Transfer (ERT) system. In January 2014, Boeing's Career Guides were updated to include the WATR Tooling Certificate as the avenue for internal employees to become Aerospace Toolmakers. This will also allow WATR graduates to qualify for tooling positions with the Boeing Company.

Edmonds Community College hosts Boeing's Supplier Symposium—On August 15, more than 200 local and international aircraft suppliers attended Boeing's 7th annual Supplier Diversity Aerospace Symposium. The event was hosted by Edmonds Community College. Edmonds CC President, Dr. Jean Hernandez opened the event with welcome remarks. The suppliers also learned of the college's unique support and partnership with the aerospace industry through the aerospace training programs offered at the WATR Center.

National Aviation Consortium (NAC) Update- The NAC Grant provided funds that allowed WATR to hire two Retention Specialists. The specialists provide resume, interviewing, and job search assistance to students. Students are now able to have individual attention that focuses on job placement preparation and employment.

National Career Readiness Certification (NCRC) - In the spring of 2013, the NCRC approved WATR as a new assessment site. On June 20, 2013, WATR initiated NCRC assessments to students at its Paine Field location. By year end, 144 students completed the assessment. The NCRC measures a combination of work-related soft skill behaviors and cognitive skills in reading, math, and reading for comprehension. Employers use the NCRC to identify competencies needed for successful employment.

Partnership with Sno-Isle Tech Skills Center and North Shore School District—WATR is expanding its outreach to high school students in the Puget Sound Area. Edmonds CC partnered with North Shore School District to offer seniors the WATR Aerospace Core Manufacturing program. In addition, 11 Sno-Isle students completed the Core Certification. Six of the 11 students continued enrolling at WATR to complete their second certification. Within two months of graduating their respective certificate programs, four of the students found employment.

Student of the QTR Recognition: Joel Hobbs Jr. - Toolmaker



I grew up in the flight path of Boeing Field in Seattle. After receiving my Bachelors of Arts - Business Administration, Finance degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta, I returned to Seattle looking to establish myself in the world of business during a declining economy. I worked in several industries like a major Rent-A-Car company and sold insurance.

Looking for stability, I turned to the aerospace industry that I grew up watching.

After making several inquiries to people I knew in aerospace, I made a visit to the WATR Center in Everett to learn more about the training programs that they offered. During that visit, I learned that I could qualify for a short-term offering from the Basic Food, Education and Training (BFET) program. I quickly jumped at this opportunity, which provided the needed funding to take the Tooling class. This funding provided me a direct path into the program, which would not have existed because of my looming college and business expense debt.

The Aerospace Tooling Mechanic program was informative and easy to work into my busy schedule. The online portion was very user friendly, allowing enough time to understand the information and pass all the required tests. The lab portion at WATR's Renton Technical College location was great! I received hands-on experience from great instructors and a lot of the people in my class helped me, since most of them already worked at Boeing. The instructors were always willing to stop what they were doing, help out, give feedback and keep all the students engaged during the whole lab, regardless of our skill levels.

I took advantage of the resume and job assistance programs that were offered by WATR's Retention Specialists at the Everett location. The resume building assistance was very helpful. I learned tips about resume building I had not heard anywhere else. The instructors also had lots of knowledge and packets about resume building.

I found a job immediately following my graduation on November 6, 2013, after receiving two job offers prior to graduation. It is great that the job search assistance is available to me any time I may need it in the future. I'm currently working at Honeywell where we're building accelerometers used for guided missiles.

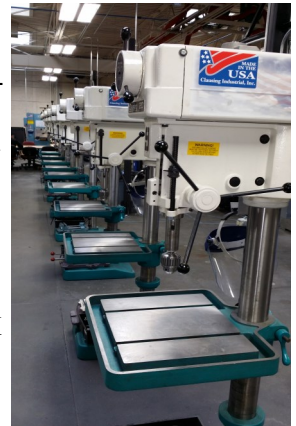
Since graduating, I feel like I'm in an industry that is stable and will always be able to find a job in aerospace. I am working a lot of overtime, and making more money. Graduating from the Aerospace Tooling Mechanic program and landing a job is my first step into this great industry. I am very optimistic about my future.



Renovations – New State of the Art Training Facility

To address industry demand for new classes and programs, WATR is expanding and will now occupy the entire C-71 building at Paine Field. The building houses a state of the art training facility for new and incumbent workers.

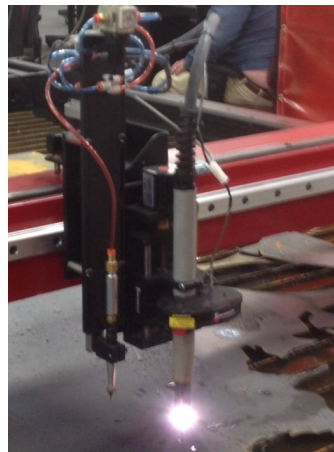
As our industry changes, WATR has remained nimble in our program offerings in this fast-paced industry. With the passage of House Bill 2088 which helped the 777X be built in Washington, WATR is expanding its program offerings to include varying levels of composite training.



The building renovation includes high tech classrooms for students and improved access to customized training for companies. WATR now has state of the art equipment that allows for training on advanced technology. In addition, Boeing's donations of the 767/41 & 43 sections will provide students the opportunity to demonstrate their skills on actual aircraft parts.

In addition to expanding the facility, WATR is updating and expanding the training and certifications offered. The Center's current short-certificate manufacturing course offerings include: Aerospace Core, Aerospace Assembly Mechanic, Aerospace Electrical Assembly Mechanic, Aerospace Tooling Mechanic, Aerospace Quality Assurance, Aerospace Composites Mechanic Certificates and the NCRC Certification.

The program instruction addresses a diversity of skill sets from students using tools for the first time, to workers who are transitioning their knowledge and abilities to a new career. Student enrollment in WATR programs represent a diverse population including males and females, recent high school graduates, incumbent workers, veterans, dislocated workers, and individuals changing careers. In addition, we provide training for incumbent workers in a number of our programs to help them obtain skills for advancement.



This program offers Veterans a great opportunity to take advantage of our training programs, converting their important and proven skill sets to aerospace. All of WATR's programs are GI Bill approved.

WATR's contributions of education and training helps close the skills gap needed in this expanding industry.