

BTC Aviation Advisory Board Meeting

November 8, 2023

Attendees:

Moses Daly - BTC Aviation Program Director & Post Secondary Instructor	-- Present
Jason Cooper - BTC Aviation & Aerospace Technology Teacher	-- Present
Jason Reed - BTC Director	-- Present
Shannon Bundy - BTC Work Based Learning Coordinator	-- Present
Cynthia Holt - BTC Adult Education Coordinator	-- Present
Stacy Clark - BTC Career Pathways Coordinator	-- Invited
Jeffrey Houghton - Vermont Flight Academy	-- Present
Bill Hanf - Green Mountain Avionics	-- Present
Jim Richards - Aerodyme	-- Present
Leif Johnsen - Heritage Aviation	-- Present
Laura Carotenuto - Heritage Aviation	-- Present
Kathy Fronhofer - Heritage Aviation	-- Present
Peter Foutz - Heritage Aviation	-- Invited
Michael Daigneault - Air Guard	-- Invited
Bill Jurgen - P&W Rep	-- Invited

Agenda:

- 1) - Introductions
- 2) - Vermont Tech College/Vermont State University two year aviation degree
- 3) - Building renovation plans at BTV for the aviation program
- 4) - Job market/business needs/suggestions
- 5) - Misc./member concerns

Agenda 1. Introductions

Quick introductions from everyone present.

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Agenda 2. Vermont Tech College/Vermont State University two year aviation degree

Moses - describes the 2 year maintenance degree through Vermont Tech college. Juniors take one college class, Seniors take one college class, take the BTC A&P program and get your A&P then go to VTC for one semester and get a two year degree.

Jason R - the college pipeline helps to show the rigor of the program and fight the stigma of Tech

Moses - new FAA standards changed slightly to make is slightly easier to test for your A&P

Bill H. - had success in the past with our students. Beta Tech has absorbed 60% of his workforce and that is making it difficult for the small business.

Jim R. - agrees that Beta should be on this board, they are changing things for aviation companies.

Jason C. - not sure if they will continue to absorb more A&Ps when their manufacturing starts up

Kathy F. - Beta is making it difficult with all the new benefits they add monthly

Jeff H. - VFA may or may not be asked to take on Beta's flight training.

Jim R. - our graduates may still go to Beta even if they don't need A&P's

Shannon B. - Making the human connection between students and smaller businesses helps to retain them.

Bill H. - yes but once they are up to speed they still leave

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Leif J - the situation with the loss of labor to another company will change and level off. Beta not the enemy, it will get better and they are an asset to the area.

Moses - making the connection with students is important and all the companies represented in the meeting are great at that and have provided great opportunities to our students. The more we can do that the better.

Kathy F. - what is the BTC program capacity, what can we do to help

Bill H. - one of the biggest issues - not enough qualified workers. Aircraft Electronics Association is trying to make a connection with tech centers. He will give Moses some contact info.

Moses - lets put a BTC link to our program on the local business websites

Cynthia H. - Beta does a lot of outreach

Leif J. - your program needs to attract the best possible students in order to be able to produce capable industry professionals.

Jason R. - need to attract students for junior year and then retain them. Have some adult students fill empty seats but that changes funding. How do we bring more students into that class?

Leif J. - is there a dis-incentive for schools to send students, do we need as a board, talk to legislatures?

Jason - would businesses want to be at our openhouses to help attract students to aviation?

Kathy F. - yes. With beta in the area, why is there not a line out the door for this program?

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Jeff H. - Beta will be able to train their workers and will not need this program.

Shannon B. - students don't know what they don't know

Jeff H. - food trucks fly in event had a lot of people at it. We all should have been there. Air show next year may have similar opportunities.

Jason R. - would businesses be willing to write testimonials for BTC to use.

Agenda 3. Building renovation plans at BTV for the aviation program

Jim R. - new building needs to be affordable to be sustainable so the program does not fold.

Agenda 4. Job market/business needs/suggestions

Agenda 5. Misc./member concerns

-Adjourn @ 1700-