



The Career and Technical Education Coordinating Committee provides guidance and support to advisory committees, in partnership with the business community, to promote a quality workforce.

CTECC

Career and Technical Education Coordinating Committee

Advisory Committee Interview
May 15, 2007

INTERVIEW AVIATION MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Harvey Birdseye (Director of the Lane Aviation Academy), and Derek Burge (Advisory Chair), Location Manager with FlightCraft, Inc.

1) Committee Accomplishments: **Excellent** (Input is evident, but committee could use more involvement)

Harvey has been pro-tem chair. Advisory Committee members are spread throughout Oregon, but they are active in committee. Most members are from the helicopter industry, rather than airplanes. Derek Burge is the new Advisory Chair, and is excited about being involved in the committee. He got his start at LCC and he hires graduates from the AMT program. Their members give input for more effective marketing. The committee has great resources at their disposal from their member businesses such as Evergreen and the Aircraft Museum.

2) Committee Involvement in Planning and Design: **Meets Expectations** (But could be improved)

Derek is very supportive of Harvey and the program, and Harvey feels their members are committed to the committee. Harvey works closely with Evergreen, who offers resources for the program.

The committee was involved in plans for consolidating the AMT with Flight Technology out at the airport. AMT is currently located here on campus. This is very cohesive and beneficial for students and faculty. The plan is to have everything operational by Fall term. Some changes need to be made to the infrastructure. They are planning mini-labs for AMT students to experience the operational side of the Flight Technology program. Mechanics need a good basic understanding on how the plane performs in operation. Pilots and mechanics develop a high level of trust with each other, and there is often a one-on-one relationship with pilots and mechanics.

Harvey can see the AMT program as a premier program at LCC. The industry needs to recruit 25,000 students in next 8 years to fill the job for this growing industry. Horizon is offering scholarships to students for the future. Boeing is increasing its production to build more planes.

3) Gender, Disability Adaptation, and Diversity: **Needs Improvement**

Emphasis in their program is on diversity. They see improvement in the trend for women to express interest at the high school level to the program. They seem better prepared and directed for the opportunity.

4) Program Demand / Enrollment: **Needs Improvement**

Mostly mature students are attracted to the program, some looking for a second career. They attract some students in their early 20's wanting to develop new skills. Many students respond to internet marketing. The program can take on more students, but it is difficult to recruit potential students. Finding students who "play well with others" is a factor.

5) Placement / Employment: **Excellent**

Most of their graduates go to work for helicopter groups. Compared to pilots who are more aggressive, the maintenance students are less assertive, and therefore don't always go after the jobs.

The pay scale is \$40,000 – \$45,000 for helicopter mechanics, compared to \$17.00 – \$20.00 for airplane mechanics and technicians. A few stay in area, but most leave to obtain jobs elsewhere. FlightCraft likes to use co-op ed students.

Occasionally students want to take both programs for pilots and mechanics, usually bush pilots, who are more independent. Typically their grads quickly become leads for business owners. 60% of successful students end up using their highly precise skill sets for other industries, like manufacturing.

6) Secondary / Postsecondary Connections: **Meets Expectations** (Program participation is great, but committee could be more involved)

There are currently no programs for high schools, though John Granger has vocational classes for high schoolers at West Lane Tech, and Harvey would like to work with him to recruit. Most High school students don't seem to be highly motivated to the discipline of the AMT program right out of high school. Harvey would like to do more with the RTEC Aviation Academy for the AMT program. Computer Based Training (CBT) is a very important factor. They are also working with people at Umpqua Community College and OSU to promote students into further education.

7) Questions for the CTECC Interview Committee:

Derek asked what LCC does to market programs?

CTECC Comments:

Tracy commented the move to the airport has been quite an accomplishment that has been developing over several years. Industry demand is high, but the program could use a boost in the area of enrollment. It is evident there is a need for marketing by the committee and the program. Greg feels their committee is very active, considering their locations, but perhaps the committee could do more. Overall, there seems to be excellent placement of students.

Tracy feels the marketing piece is important with the budget crunch and staff squeeze, and this is an excellent issue for the Fall Kick Off event. Peter suggested sharing the processes used by successful committees with the other committees.