



P.O. BOX 234  
JENKS, OK 74037

---

703.548.2030  
ATEC@ATEC-AMT.ORG  
ATEC-AMT.ORG

January 16, 2020

The Honorable Steve Dickson  
Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20591

[megan.bailey@faa.gov](mailto:megan.bailey@faa.gov)

Re: Workforce Priorities, Invitation to Speak at the ATEC Annual Conference and Legislative Fly-In

Administrator Dickson:

Please accept this invitation to participate in the Aviation Technician Education Council's (ATEC) upcoming annual conference, taking place March 30-April 1 in Fort Worth. More information about the event including the latest agenda is available at [www.atec-amt.org/annual-conference](http://www.atec-amt.org/annual-conference).

ATEC is a trade association that represents stakeholders in aviation maintenance education, including schools with aviation technical programs and companies that employ their graduates. The annual conference attracts around 200 members of the aviation community and provides networking opportunities and seminars focused on workforce development, training best practices, and building awareness about careers in aviation maintenance.

The majority of attendees are representatives of schools governed by 14 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 147, and as such are directly impacted by FAA directives regarding mechanic certification and application. To further these interests, the community has set forth the following regulatory priorities—

1. **Promulgate a New Part 147.** As you know, part 147 is currently undergoing rulemaking, and has been for the last several years. It is of the utmost importance to our stakeholders that the FAA modernize aviation maintenance technician school curriculum so that schools are able to better align training with industry workforce needs. ATEC made significant comment to the 2015 NPRM and the 2019 SNPRM in an effort to influence development of a performance-based rule that will support the aviation industry for decades to come.
2. **Publish Mechanic Airman Certification Standards (ACS).** ATEC representatives have been heavily involved in an FAA-industry working group that is developing the new testing standard and accompanying system that will revolutionize how our future aviators are taught and tested. We encourage the agency to work with the administration to get the standard published as soon as possible. In its deployment of the new testing system, we reiterate our request that the agency use the ACS as the basis for training requirements, to ensure training and testing are correlated, and efficiencies attained.

- 3. Expand Organization Designation Authorization (ODA) to Mechanic Examinations.** Currently, 30 percent of A&P school graduates do not take the exam necessary to receive a mechanic certificate; access to practical testing examiners was identified as one of the top barriers for students seeking FAA mechanic certification. ATEC therefore fully supports expansion of the ODA program to cover practical testing.

We would be honored if you would join us to speak about the status of these priorities, the agency's regulatory agenda, and specifically those initiatives impacting the aviation workforce and education. The keynote is scheduled for 9:15 AM CT on Monday, March 30 at the Tarrant County College Trinity River campus in downtown Fort Worth (but we can be flexible on the timing if there is another time period over the course of the conference that would allow you to participate). We would ask that you provide 20 minutes of comments followed by a brief period for questions and answers.

In the event you are not able to attend the annual conference, we would ask that you consider joining us for our fall event in Washington DC. The ATEC Fly-in is scheduled for September 16 at Helicopter Association International headquarters in Alexandria, VA. We would be honored if you could join us to provide around 30 minutes of remarks, at your convenience.

We hope you are able to join us and look forward to your reply.

Regards,



Crystal Maguire  
Executive Director