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Aviation Technician Education Council

**TO:** ATEC Members  
**FROM:** Ryan Goertzen, President  
**RE:** ATEC January 2016 Update

### **STAYING THE COURSE ON BEHALF OF THE AMTS COMMUNITY**

Fellow Educators, Industry Members, Colleagues and Friends,

It's hard to believe that January is almost over and soon the AMTS community will be descend upon Atlanta for [ATEC's Annual Conference](#) (make sure it's on your calendar: April 9-12...better yet, make sure [you're registered](#)).

I am so proud of what we have accomplished this past year together. The board has been extremely busy working hand-in-hand with the business office on behalf of our membership. Take a look at our ever-growing list of [member alerts](#) – particularly the [call to action sent on Jan. 28](#); did you check each item off your to-do list? – and you can see the fruits of this labor.

Foremost on everyone's mind is the [notice of proposed rulemaking \(NPRM\)](#) that was finally published to address the many shortcomings in the 14 CFR part 147. The council has kept the pressure on the FAA for years to update the rule that governs our institutions and we cannot miss this opportunity. ATEC's comment-development working group has listened hard to you and labored hard to develop language that provides our members the best tools and greatest flexibility to serve our students. That's what this is all about.

The NPRM didn't pop out of thin air. In 2007, I participated in the [Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee \(ARAC\)](#) as an industry member. At the time I was working for Air Wisconsin Airlines as the manager of training. The committee published our findings in [December of 2008](#), and since then we've waited, and waited, and waited for action on part 147. While it was long coming, there have been small victories and opportunities along the way: The FAA did support (thanks to Marty Baily and Steve Douglas) work on nine regulatory items that ATEC spearheaded in 2012. Those efforts, each led by a working group, provided a pathway to distance education, improved inspector training and rewrites of advisory circulars as well as 8900 guidance materials. Most importantly, they solidified ATEC's place as the go-to organization for maintenance education.

Finally the time has come for rule change. It is 30 years overdue but ATEC has remained steadfast, with the support of its members, in the belief that regulatory change will help us teach, our students succeed and the maintenance industry flourish. We can't fly without it.

It's important to keep in mind that proposals don't always lead quickly to final rules. While crafting our comments, ATEC has kept the pressure on the agency to move the process along. In another first, the council developed a [letter that was signed by U.S. Representatives Tom Rice from South Carolina and Jim Bridenstine from Oklahoma](#). Through their voices, we urged Administrator Huerta to stay the course on part 147.

**Dedicated to Aviation Maintenance Technician Education**

For the past two years board members have taken time to meet with their own elected officials to push the [AMTS community's legislative priorities](#). This has been a critical part of ATEC's strategy to support members through increased presence in Washington. It is our collective duty to ensure the efforts of A&P schools and instructors are not overlooked, and through the board's efforts we created enough visibility to make the letter from Reps. Bridenstine and Rice possible.

We have also found a strong ally in the [STEM Education Coalition](#). Since the board's decision last April to join the coalition's [Leadership Council](#), we have benefited from increased access to Washington policy makers as well as insight and impact across the broader education community. I am excited that Executive Director James Brown will join us in Atlanta ([don't miss him](#)). If you haven't met James, I promise you will be impressed by his energy, knowledge and passion for building a world-class education system here in the United States.

I end with a challenge: All this comes at a cost and the Annual Conference is the largest revenue generator the council has – the foundation of our yearly budget income. Members can help build upon this year's hard work by committing to attend in April. Last year we saw about 140 industry and education members attend. My goal this year is over 200 attendees and this can only be done with your help. Help us get there by registering today and bring four people with you. The conference opens with two days of sessions focused on academics and continuing education credit opportunities; bring faculty members just to this section of the conference to fulfill accreditation requirements.

Together we are building ATEC into something great. Thank you for all that you do every day for your students and the industries our graduates serve.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan" followed by a stylized flourish.

Ryan