

ATEC

Aviation Technician Education Council

Together We Can Do So Much

By [Crystal Maguire](#), ATEC Executive Director

Workforce development is a sexy topic. Given the looming shortage of technical personnel, the aerospace industry is supremely focused on the next generation of technicians. In its [2016 annual forecast](#) Boeing estimates *commercial* airline maintenance technician needs at 679,000 over the next 20 years (an 11.3 percent increase over last year's forecast). The report puts into actual numbers what industry already knows: we need people to fill jobs, and lots of them.

Companies, trade groups, educators and communities are funneling time and resources to ensure the future of aviation is bright. For example, last month's [AAB International](#) annual meeting highlighted "pathway programs" for maintenance technicians; [JetBlue's maintenance apprenticeship](#) and Boeing-supported [CorePlus](#) were two shining examples.

Events such as the [Aerospace Maintenance Competition](#) and the Aircraft Technologies Group [Aeroskills Tournament](#) are engendering renewed interest in the current workforce, providing experience for trainees, and rounding up new recruits.

The [National Center for Aviation Training Talent Supply Chain](#) will offer employer opportunities to source reliable talent from multiple markets, highlighting the growing need for companies to recruit outside traditional norms.

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ATEC will certainly do its part to keep the momentum going. In 2015 the trade association released a [study](#) shedding new light on the challenges to find, retain and grow a world-class aviation maintenance workforce. Last year, it created a repository of maintenance program graduate information to aid employer recruitment (member companies may download the data [here](#); institutions can submit information [here](#)). It continues to [push for a statistical framework](#) that will more accurately garner workforce data, and facilitate surveys to assess key industry trends (2016 survey [now open](#)). And next year ATEC will host an inaugural "employer meet and greet" at its [annual conference in Seattle](#). The reception will take place on April 2 and will provide a structured networking opportunity for institution and employer representatives to discuss hiring and potential pipeline programs.

Our industry is one of resilience, innovation and resourcefulness. The question is not whether we'll be able to support aerospace in the coming decades, but how we're going to do it. We all have a part to play, and ATEC will continue to facilitate the collective part through the support of its [members](#). If you haven't already, join us!



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Member Alerts

Take the 2016 Survey

A TEC is conducting a survey of US-based educational institutions with aviation maintenance programs. The purpose of the survey is to assess key trends, gather entering workforce demographics, and support council programs and initiatives. [Read more.](#)

Soliciting Comment on ACS General & Airframe

FAA and industry continue to create a new A&P mechanic test standard. Initial drafts for general and airframe are complete and available for comment. [Read more.](#)

Boeing Forecasts Nearly 1.5 Million Pilots and Technicians Needed by 2035

In its seventh year, the outlook asserts the world's commercial aviation industry will require approximately 679,000 new commercial airline maintenance technicians over the next 20 years. [Read more.](#)

Journal Editorial Board Opening: Applications Due Today

The council's peer-reviewed, biannual publication is refereed by member volunteers. ATEC is currently soliciting an additional member of the editorial board. [Read more.](#)



Upcoming Events

Washington Fly-in, Sept. 8-9, 2016

The two-day event will focus on high-level programmatic themes, challenges and opportunities. Attendees will meet with congressional representatives, FAA and Dept. of Ed. regulatory officials, and industry partners. The deadline to book a hotel room at the group rate is Aug. 10. [Read more.](#)

Annual Conference in Seattle, April 1-3, 2017

See the latest schedule of events, which includes an "employer meet & greet" networking reception. Sponsors and exhibitors can commit now to secure 2016 rates and obtain maximum exposure in conference marketing materials. [Read more.](#)

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Member Resources

Job Board

See what aviation maintenance training schools are hiring on ATEC's job board, a free resource for members. [Read more.](#)

Classroom Media

The council's media library is now available electronically. Institutional members are invited

to download a sample free of charge. [Read more.](#)

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