

AITEC

Aviation Technician Education Council

Boots on the Ground

By Ryan Goertzen, President

Earlier this month, an ATEC contingent descended upon Washington, D.C. for its [annual fly-in](#). This pilgrimage happens each fall to push legislative and regulatory action, meet with key leaders, and conduct critical business for the organization.

Historically, the ATEC board of directors met in Washington to attend a series of meetings and hold its annual board meeting. This year marked the first time the entire membership was invited to attend. As with any new endeavor there is often a sense of tension and nervousness concerning the outcome and whether the resources and dollars spent will generate an adequate return on that investment. I am happy to report that our first fly-in was a huge success, with 22 members participating (including representatives from several AMTS, Delta Airlines, AAR Corp and United Airlines).

On day one ATEC representatives participated in more than 20 congressional meetings on Capitol Hill, educating members of Congress on our industry's [top legislative issues](#) and requesting support for timely issuance of part 147. Attendees also heard from education committee staff regarding the latest developments in career technical education legislation.



Day two brought meetings with key members of the Department of Labor (DOL) and Department of Education (DOE). Discussions were lively and informative, with ATEC representatives pointing out AMTS' unique challenges dealing with regulations promulgated by one regulatory body that is counterproductive to another agency goal. ATEC was able to open up new doors with the DOL and DOE and I believe this will pay major dividends in years ahead.

ATEC representatives also had the opportunity to meet with key FAA officials to discuss various AMTS regulatory challenges. At the top of the list was the looming Designated Maintenance Examiner (DME) shortage. With an aging DME population, inspector handbook language limiting productivity and adding designee qualifications, and aggressive industry initiatives expected to increase AMTS enrollment, the membership has identified DME availability as a top concern. Solutions were discussed, and ATEC will continue the push to ensure we have the capacity to facilitate exams for every mechanic applicant.

Attendees also discussed the opportunity for more local partnerships that provide career paths for high school students. Currently, the existence of "dual enrollment" programs vary from FAA field office to field office. ATEC pledged to work with the agency to develop clear, consistent guidance that will encourage programs that provide secondary students credit towards an A&P certificate.

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Finally, attendees voiced their support for a final part 147 free from prescriptive requirements that would allow AMTS to develop competency-based programs (see discussion summary, [here](#)). On behalf of the council I want to thank agency officials for allowing the community to engage on this topic, which is so important not only to AMTS, but the entire aviation industry.

The day concluded with an industry partner round table, participants included representatives from Women in Aviation, the Aeronautical Repair Station Association, Airlines for America, the General Aviation Manufacturers Association, the Regional Airline Association, and the Helicopter Association International. Workforce development remains a critical topic for these groups and we must listen and work with them to ensure we create the technicians needed to support the aerospace industry.

Day three provided time for the board of directors to discuss critical council business. ATEC leadership has worked hard to develop a framework for moving forward and continuing to grow as an organization. I'm happy to report that ATEC's mission, values and strategic plan will be unveiled before the end of the year, and will pave the way forward for financial stability, membership growth, and increased influence in our community.

Though events like this, ATEC ensures your voice is heard. If you weren't able to participate in Washington there are more ways to get involved. [Invite](#) a member of congress to your school and show them what you do in your community. [Volunteer](#) to serve on an ATEC committee. [Attend](#) our annual conference next April in Seattle. [Join](#) us in building the future.

Thank you to all those that made this year's event such a success, and for providing our community a voice for aviation maintenance education.

Ryan Goertzen is the president of Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology and is serving his first term as ATEC's president.



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Calls to Action

Last Call: Take the 2016 Survey

ATEC is conducting a survey of US-based educational institutions with aviation maintenance programs. If you have not already, submit your response today. [Read more.](#)

Comment on Draft Mechanic Testing Standard

FAA and industry continue to create a new airman testing standard (ACS) for the A&P mechanic test. The first draft of the combined general, airframe and powerplant is complete and available for comment. [Read more.](#)

Now's your Chance: Provide Knowledge Test Question Feedback

Through the ACS working group, the FAA is requesting feedback on the current general knowledge [sampleexam](#). Comments will be considered during the AviationExam Board (AEB) review and update of the the knowledge test bank. [Read more.](#)

Submit to the Journal

The Journal provides an opportunity for educators, administrators, students and industry

personnel to share teaching techniques and research. Articles must be submitted by Oct. 1 to be considered for the fall edition. [Read more.](#)

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Members in the News

Collaboration Key to the Future AMT Workforce

By Amy Kienast, Director of Career Services at MIAT College of Technology
Industry, academia, and FAA need to collaborate now to meet the demand for new maintenance technicians. [Read more.](#)

FAA Announces New Air Transportation Center of Excellence at Embry-Riddle

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University will lead the new Air Transportation Center of Excellence (COE) for Technical Training and Human Performance. [Read more.](#)

Northern Michigan University Hosts Open House

The University's Aviation Maintenance Technology program showcased program offerings and celebrated its 25th anniversary by hosting an AeroSkills Tournament. [Read more.](#)

Purdue and Ivy Tech Launch Partnership

The aviation maintenance program partnership will help fill the employment pipeline for the \$100 million-plus jet engine plant that General Electric recently built in Lafayette. [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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