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Program press contact:

Granite Technical Institute Receives the Excellence in Action Award for its Innovative Utah Aerospace Pathways CTE Program

April 5, 2018 – [Salt Lake City, Utah] – Today, the Utah Aerospace Pathways (UAP) program of study at the Granite Technical Institute received the prestigious Excellence in Action award from Advance CTE. This award honors innovative and effective Career Technical Education (CTE) programs across the nation. UAP exemplifies excellence in providing relevant work-based learning opportunities through sustained partnerships with education, community and industry leaders; integrates rigorous academics; meets college and career readiness standards; and has demonstrated substantial evidence of student success and achievement.

The Utah Aerospace Pathways program of study received the award in the *Manufacturing Career Cluster*[®]. They are dedicated and passionate about creating seamless transitions to postsecondary and career. All students must complete a set of rigorous courses and a 48-hour externship in the industry to receive the Utah Aerospace Pathways Certificate, which guarantees an interview with any of the participating partner companies.

"The Utah Aerospace Pathway program aligns industry and education to fill critical workforce needs in our state while ensuring continued success in the aerospace industry," said Gov. Gary R. Herbert. "Career and Technical Education serve an important role in training our workforce in Utah. We appreciate Granite School District and their innovative partnership to make this program available for students in their district."

A high-quality CTE program requires partnerships that offer support and create authentic real-world experiences. Albany International, The Boeing Company, Hexcel Corporation, Janicki Industries, Orbital ATK and Hill Air Force Base, have collaborated with postsecondary leaders to develop curriculum, work-based learning experiences and incentives to build a pipeline of qualified employees.

The program was established in response to industry demand for skilled employees in aerospace careers. The program continues to produce results. In 2015-2016, all participants graduated high school, earned an industry recognized credential, earned postsecondary credit and participated in work based learning.

"The Utah Aerospace Pathways program has served as the model for other areas of the state to develop aerospace pathways, as well as a model of success for other industry-education partnership programs in Utah," said Thalea Longhurst, State Director, Career and Technical Education, Utah State Board OF Education.

"The programs of study that we are honoring today all share a steadfast commitment to the highest expectations for CTE," said Kimberly Green, Executive Director of Advance CTE. "This dedication to quality and excellence leads to strong learner outcomes, creating opportunities for a lifetime of career and education success. Today's honorees serve as national models of what high-quality CTE looks like and can achieve."

Representatives accepted the honor at an award ceremony as part of the Advance CTE Spring Meeting in Washington, D.C. Learn more about the UAP and the Excellence in Action award [here](#).

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About Advance CTE

Advance CTE: State Leaders Connecting Learning to Work is the longest-standing national non-profit that represents State Directors and state leaders responsible for secondary, postsecondary and adult Career Technical Education (CTE) across all 50 states and U.S. territories. Established in 1920, Advance CTE supports visionary state leadership, cultivates best practices and speaks with a collective voice on national policy to promote academic and technical excellence that ensures a career-ready workforce.