

2018

Excellence in Action Award

Granite Technical Institute

Utah Aerospace Pathways

Manufacturing Career Cluster

OVERVIEW

The Utah Aerospace Pathways program of study at the Granite Technical Institute in Salt Lake City, UT, was established in 2015 in response to industry demand for skilled employees in aerospace careers. The Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development, secondary and postsecondary institutions and five local aerospace industry partners and worked closely to develop a robust program of study that continually adapts and evolves to meet the needs of industry.

The Utah Aerospace Pathways program of study offers learners college credits and four required industry-recognized credentials to support them in all post-high school pathways. The program offers coursework and meaningful work-based learning that provide learners with opportunities to gain awareness of the industry, technical skills and hands-on experiences with members of the aerospace industry.

Student Demographics (21)	Percentage
Male	91%
Female	9%
Low Income	48%
Minority	33%

PATHWAY TO POSTSECONDARY

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.

Granite School District, in conjunction with aerospace industry partners, developed the sequence of recommended and required courses that encompass the full range of knowledge and skills students will need to be successful in further training and/or entry-level employment.

In 9th grade, learners are provided with a broad exposure to the industry. As they progress through the program of study, learners master the technical skills as well as the employability skills needed to succeed in this fast-paced industry.

This program of study also benefits from a robust articulation agreement, which crosses four distinct institutions: the high school program, Salt Lake Community College aerospace composites training non-credit program, Salt Lake Community College credit options in machining and manufacturing technology and Weber State University. This articulation agreement allows learners to have multiple options to continue their postsecondary education.

Utah Aerospace Pathways does not currently align with credit classes. Rather, students receive hours toward a certificate of completion or proficiency. These certificates then articulate with two-year associate degrees and then with four-year bachelor's degrees, providing on and off ramps for all learners.



COLLABORATION TO CREATE CHANGE

In 2015, the Utah aerospace industry accounted for 944 companies and more than 31,000 employees. Five companies partnered to voice their concerns with the Governor's Office of Economic Development about the need for qualified entry-level workers. For example, the Hill Air Force Base, Utah's largest single employer, identified a need for 1,200 new hires by 2019.

Albany International, The Boeing Company, Hexcel Corporation, Janicki Industries, Orbital ATK and Hill Air Force Base, despite being competitors in the industry, have collaborated with postsecondary leaders to develop a curriculum, work-based learning experiences and incentives to build a pipeline of qualified employees.

Their input throughout the development and evaluations of the program of study also helps to ensure that the coursework stays relevant to the current industry needs.

PAVING THE WAY FOR OTHER PATHWAYS

The success of the Utah Aerospace Pathways program has inspired other districts to develop pathways in areas such as life science, diesel and information technology. These new pathways are highly supported by Utah's governor, Gary Herbert, in conjunction with his Talent Ready Utah initiative. The Aerospace program of study is part of the Talent Ready Utah effort, and its early success contributed to the governor designating 2018 as the Year of Technical Education.



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AUTHENTIC WORK-BASED LEARNING

Utah Aerospace Pathways offers a continuum of work-based learning experiences offered throughout the program of study. Work-based learning begins at a broad level with career events, guest lectures and company tours to increase awareness and exploration of career possibilities. The hands-on classroom activities and real-world industry projects are opportunities for learners to connect what they are learning in the classroom to authentic work experiences.

The required 48-hour externship allows students to apply their knowledge and skills within a real-world industry experience. The employer serves as a mentor and assesses the student's work ethic, technical skills, willingness to learn and overall attitude.

"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. 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." — Governor Gary R. Herbert.

Success by the Numbers



100%

Participated in Work-Based Learning



100%

Graduated High School



100%

Earned an Industry-Recognized Credential



100%

Earned Postsecondary Credit