

AJAC Celebrates Spokane Machining Apprenticeship Graduates for Earning Nationally Recognized Journey-Level Certificate

AJAC Hosts Apprenticeship Graduation Ceremony in Spokane, WA for New Generation of Machinists in the Aerospace and Advanced Manufacturing Industries



AJAC Machinist (Aircraft Oriented) apprentice graduate, Chris Murphy



AJAC apprentice graduates at Spokane Community College



AJAC apprentice graduate, Joeseph Rodriquez

SEATTLE, WA-April 3, 2015 – The [Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee \(AJAC\)](#) will host a graduation ceremony Friday, April 10, 2015, at Spokane Community College to celebrate AJAC’s graduating Machinist (Aircraft Oriented) Apprentices from Spokane. The graduates will be awarded a nationally recognized journey-level certificate for completing AJAC’s four-year apprenticeship program. These new journey-level professionals are employed across six aerospace and advanced manufacturing companies, including:

- Advanced Machining NW, Inc.
- KeyTronicEMS
- L&M Precision Fabrication, Inc.
- Multifab, Inc.
- Proto Technologies Inc.
- Rocky Mountain Machining

“This is such an exciting time for not only these graduating apprentices, but for aerospace and advanced manufacturing in Spokane. These graduates represent a new generation of manufacturing professionals who will carry on the invaluable knowledge and skills of their mentors and those retiring in the next five, ten years,” said [Demetria “Lynn” Strickland, AJAC Executive Director](#). “AJAC’s graduates are walking out of the program as multi-skilled machinists with the competence and confidence to work on a variety of equipment, across multiple divisions within an organization. They have earned their journey-level certificate - a sign of their hard work, perseverance and leadership skills. “

As these graduates take their next steps as the new generation of machinists and leaders in the aerospace and advanced manufacturing industries, they will hear from: Fred Brown, Vice President, L&M Precision Fabrication, Inc.; Joeseph Rodriquez, AJAC Graduating Apprentice, Multifab, Inc., and Demetria “Lynn” Strickland, AJAC Executive Director.

These apprentices successfully performed 8,000 hours of supervised on-the-job training (OJT) at their employer’s job site and completed college-level classes at Spokane Community College to learn the theory and practical application behind their training. AJAC’s apprenticeship program provided each company a method to capture and pass on the knowledge and skills of their most experienced machinists.

During AJAC’s Machinist (Aircraft Oriented) apprenticeship program, graduates performed their OJT on a scheduled rotation, which trained them on a variety of equipment and processes, providing their company with a flexible and highly-skilled workforce. The equipment and processes included all aspects of Manual and CNC Machining, CNC Programming, Computer Aided Design (CAD) & Computer Aided Manufacturing (CAM), Inspection, Metallurgy, Cutting Tool Technology, and Advanced Machining Technologies, such as Waterjet and Electrical Discharge Machining (EDM).

The [Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee \(AJAC\)](#) is a statewide, state-funded, nonprofit organization that develops and implements [Washington State registered aerospace and advanced manufacturing apprenticeship programs](#) for Machining (Aircraft Oriented), Precision Metal Fabrication, Aircraft Mechanic Airframe, Tool & Die Maker and Industrial Maintenance Mechanic. [Apprenticeship](#) combines supervised on-the-job training (OJT) experience (93% of the time) with college-level classroom instruction (7% of the time). The programs are industry-driven and offer aerospace and advanced manufacturing employers the opportunity to build a well-qualified and experienced workforce.