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Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee (AJAC) Launches New Machining Program in Yakima County at Yakima Valley Community College

SEATTLE, WA – January 14, 2013 – The [Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee \(AJAC\)](#), a non-profit, statewide developer of Washington State registered aerospace and advanced manufacturing apprenticeship programs, announced today that it is offering a new Machining apprenticeship program at [Yakima Valley Community College \(YVCC\)](#), in Yakima, WA. This program started on Thursday, January 10, 2013. AJAC is continuing to register apprentices for the spring quarter.

This will be AJAC's first apprenticeship program in Yakima starting out with nine apprentices from one of [AJAC's participating Training Agents, GE Aviation](#). Other program locations include: Spokane, Franklin, Pierce, King and Snohomish counties. In addition to Machining, AJAC has designed and implemented apprenticeship programs for precision metal fabrication and aircraft mechanics airframe and is currently developing programs for additional aerospace and advanced manufacturing occupations.

AJAC's [Apprenticeship program](#) combines supervised on-the-job training experience with college-level classroom instruction enabling employees to earn while they learn and employers to increase their workforce skills without disrupting production. Upon graduation, the apprentice receives their Journey-Level Certificate certifying them as a master tradesperson.

"AJAC is excited to introduce our machining program to Yakima County. The expansion of our programs in new counties gives aerospace and manufacturing employers throughout all of Washington State the chance to pass along knowledge and skill of their master tradespeople, and get their employees trained with the skills needed to maintain a highly-skilled workforce. Together with Yakima Valley Community College and our employers we can create the next generation of tradespeople," said [Laura Hopkins, Executive Director of AJAC](#).

AJAC's machining program at YVCC will be taught to aircraft-oriented precision levels and give apprentices the opportunity to learn and enhance their knowledge of a variety of skills. These skills include: Math; CNC Technology; CAD/CAM; Inspection; Metallurgy and Advanced Materials; Cutting Tools; Conventional and Advanced Machining; and Print Reading. Apprentices are also introduced to other cutting-edge technologies, such as Waterjet and Electrical Discharge Machining (EDM). Through this partnership with YVCC, the college is offering AJAC use of their brand new computer lab, as well as their machine shop where apprentices will have access to machines and equipment such as lathes, milling machines, a drill press and a horizontal bandsaw. In addition to aerospace, AJAC offers training for machining and its other occupations across a number of industries, including: advanced manufacturing, medical manufacturing, marine, automotive and agriculture.

Angel Reyna, Director for Workforce Education at Yakima Valley Community College (YVCC), said, “Yakima Valley Community College is excited to offer more opportunities to our local community in an effort to strengthen our workforce through our partnership with AJAC, GE Aviation and other potential manufacturing companies.”

AJAC enables companies to pass along their knowledge and trade secrets to create their next generation of experts through programs developed with industry input and emerging practices from their Washington State counterparts. These employers have contributed time, expertise and knowledge to curriculum development, mentor programs, advisory committees and equipment and technology donations.

In addition to obtaining journey-level certification as a master craftsman, AJAC’s unique programs set the apprentice on a path towards earning an associate’s degree that can articulate into a four-year degree. AJAC’s innovative apprenticeship programs also:

- Integrate competency based learning,
- Implement instructor training to develop the next generation of trades instructors that utilizes master craftspeople,
- Partner with employers, community and technical colleges and others across Washington to implement innovative training models that establish career pathways from K-12 through master craftspeople,
- Work with certifying agencies to enable apprentices to achieve multiple certifications,
- Participate in pre-employment and pre-apprenticeship training across Washington State, equipping students with the knowledge, skills and abilities to secure an entry-level position in machining and advanced manufacturing,
- Offer hybrid online/in-person classes

About AJAC

The [Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee \(AJAC\)](#) is an industry-driven program offering aerospace and advanced manufacturing employers the opportunity to build a well-qualified and experienced workforce. Apprenticeship combines supervised on-the-job training experience with college-level classroom instruction enabling employees to earn while they learn and gives employers a proven method to capture the knowledge and skills of their most experienced workers and pass it on to the next generation of productive employees. Through the AJAC apprenticeship program employers can enroll current employees to earn journey-level certification. These employees can be added to an existing AJAC program or if a company has 15 or more employees that need training, AJAC can create a brand new program exclusively for that company. To find out more information about how your company can participate in any of AJAC’s apprenticeship programs, or create a brand new one, please visit AJAC’s website or contact AJAC at 509-533-8299, info@ajactraining.org or follow our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) updates.

About Yakima Valley Community College

[Yakima Valley Community College \(YVCC\)](#) is a two-year public institution of higher education. YVCC is part of one of the best comprehensive community college systems in the nation and addresses the needs of our diverse communities by providing learning opportunities in basic literacy; academic, professional, and technical education; and lifelong learning.

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