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AJAC, the City of Arlington and Arlington School District to Host an Aerospace and Manufacturing Employer Open House at Arlington High School

SEATTLE, WA-March 21, 2013 - The [Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee \(AJAC\)](#), the [City of Arlington](#), and [Arlington School District](#) are hosting an Open House at [Arlington High School](#), 18821 Crown Ridge Blvd, Arlington WA, for Arlington area aerospace and advanced manufacturing employers, elected Officials, educators and the media. This event will take place on Friday, March 22, 2013 from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

AJAC, the City of Arlington, Arlington School District, [Workforce Development Council of Snohomish County \(WDCSC\)](#), [Economic Alliance of Snohomish County](#), and [Everett Community College](#) are partnering together to establish a stackable education system that creates a bridge between K-12 schools and the workplace. This collaboration gives students the opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills they need to be successful in the trades, and gives employers the opportunity to build a highly skilled workforce.

In January, AJAC launched the Machining Apprenticeship in Arlington, WA and is introducing the new Precision Metal Fabrication Program in summer 2013.

During the open house, attendees will have the opportunity to hear from AJAC Executive Director, Laura Hopkins, and learn how the AJAC Machining and Precision Metal Fabrication apprenticeship programs can provide aerospace and advanced manufacturing employers a proven method to capture the knowledge of their most highly skilled tradespeople and pass it on to their next generation of productive employees. Attendees will also hear from the City of Arlington Mayor, Barb Tolbert, and Dr. Kristine McDuffy, Superintendent of Arlington School District as they explain Arlington's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) initiatives in the K-12 schools. Following the speakers, tours will be given of the remodeled Arlington High School Metal Shop where AJAC's machining apprenticeship classes are held.

"AJAC is excited to share with employers and public officials the steps AJAC has taken to bring apprenticeship training to the Arlington area and the opportunities employers now have to train their workforce. This partnership allows us to bridge the gap between K-12 education and employment in the Aerospace and Manufacturing trades, and gives us the opportunity to create the next generation of highly skilled workers," said Laura Hopkins, AJAC Executive Director.

Arlington's Mayor Barb Tolbert said, "With the increase in Arlington's aerospace and advance manufacturing sector, it is imperative that we address the issues of a qualified work force to fill the increasing job opportunities. Arlington Public Schools is addressing the demand for a higher STEM aptitude for students and creating the pathway for them to succeed in technical environment of the 21st Century economy. A well-trained workforce is necessary to insure the Arlington Community remains globally competitive in this new economy."

According to Superintendent Dr. Kristine McDuffy, "We are excited to be partnering with the Workforce Development Council of Snohomish County; Economic Alliance of Snohomish County; Everett Community College; Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee (AJAC); the City of Arlington and local businesses to ensure that our students are aware of the multitude of opportunities in high demand STEM fields, have access to high quality relevant instruction, and clear career and college pathways. This unique and powerful partnership will help build bridges for our students and a strong, competitive workforce."

During AJAC's machining and precision metal fabrication programs, apprentices attend class one night a week at [Arlington High School](#) where AJAC, through its partnership with Arlington School District, has access to the metal shop and classroom facilities. Apprentices receive their on-the-job training (OJT) from aerospace and advanced manufacturing companies who participate as [registered training agents](#) in AJAC's apprenticeship program. Upon successful completion, the apprentice earns their journey-level certification and college credit which can apply towards two and four year degrees.

"One of WDCSC's main strategies is to foster collaboration between education and industry in order to build a highly-skilled workforce right here in Snohomish County," explains Sue Ambler, President/CEO of Workforce Development Council Snohomish County. "The partnership between AJAC, Arlington High School, the City of Arlington, Economic Alliance of Snohomish County, and Everett Community College is a prime example of this collaboration. Not only is Arlington High School preparing students for tomorrow's jobs, but they're helping local businesses get the skilled workers they need today."

Media representatives who would like to attend this event, can contact Lisa Van Dyke at 206-764-5832 or lvandyke@ajactraining.org.

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Aerospace and advanced manufacturing companies can start a machining or precision metal fabrication apprenticeship program by contacting Joe Hauth, AJAC Program Developer, at: at 206-465-2342 or jhauth@ajactraining.org.

The [Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee \(AJAC\)](#) is a statewide, non-profit organization that develops apprenticeship training programs combining supervised on-the-job training (OJT) experience with college-level classroom instruction. The programs are industry-driven and offer aerospace and advanced manufacturing employers the opportunity to build a well-qualified and experienced workforce.

The [City of Arlington](#) is ideally situated halfway between Seattle and Vancouver, BC. It is ringed by major transportation corridors (SR 530, SR 531, SR 9, I-5), with an active BNSF railroad spur, and home to Washington's premier general aviation airport, Arlington Municipal Airport. The Arlington Industrial area plays a principal role in supporting the aerospace economic engine in Snohomish County. Home to over 160 key aerospace and advanced manufacturing suppliers, Arlington is Snohomish County's second largest manufacturing and industrial employment center. The advanced manufacturing companies that call Arlington home provide over 4,700 family wage jobs within the Arlington industrial area. [Arlington Public Schools](#) is located about 40 miles north of Seattle and serves an average of over 5,300 students in their four elementary schools, two middle schools, one high school, one alternative high school and a home-based instruction campus. The mission of the district is "Educating all students, preparing and inspiring them to achieve their full potential." Having a vision of student achievement, providing a safe and caring environment, responsible stewardship and continuous improvement makes the district highly desirable to students and their families.

[Workforce Development Council Snohomish County \(WDCSC\)](#) invests government and private funding to continuously increase the global competitiveness and prosperity of county workforce and businesses, fill current and emerging jobs, and provide full employment. Investments are made through effective business, labor, community-based, educational, and service provider organizations for the opportunity, economic well-being, and benefit of our entire community.