



# Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

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## **NEW AEROSPACE REPORT SHOWS ACUTE WORKFORCE NEEDS IN KEY AREAS**

*Annual employer survey provides ground-level view of hiring needs*

OLYMPIA—Washington aerospace manufacturers are cautious when forecasting their future growth, according to a new aerospace report coauthored by the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board and State Board for Community & Technical Colleges. While the industry doesn't expect to see much increase in total labor force numbers, they expect, and are already seeing, openings in particular occupational areas. The 2013 report, published earlier this year, indicates growing demand in key areas such as CNC Programmers and Composites Manufacturing Technicians.

The report is based on a statewide survey distributed last fall to aerospace suppliers and manufacturers. Their responses were tallied before the Legislature held a special session that extended tax benefits to aerospace giant Boeing and before the company's critical machinists' vote that kept the 777X contract in Washington.

Even so, of the aerospace firms surveyed, 81 percent said they hired new employees in the last 12 months. Demand is expected to rise sharply for: Computer and Numerical Control (CNC) programmers, tool makers, manufacturing planners and engineers, composites assemblers and manufacturers, and computer technicians.

A big win for the state's aerospace manufacturers was the Legislature's decision during the special session to appropriate \$8 million to boost aerospace training capacity among the state's community and technical colleges. That works out to 1,000 FTEs (or full-time equivalent students). The aerospace report is helping shape how the new training is prioritized.

Beyond providing details on supply and demand, the report reinforces the importance of the aerospace industry in Washington: the state is home to one out of five of the nation's aerospace jobs, the highest aerospace employment for any single state.

To view the full Annual 2013 Aerospace Report, visit <http://wtb.wa.gov/aerospace.asp>. More details on aerospace training programs throughout Washington at [www.careerbridge.com](http://www.careerbridge.com).

*The Workforce Board is a state agency that monitors and evaluates the state's key workforce programs and also provides leadership on policies that help all Washington residents get the education and training they need to obtain living-wage jobs. The Workforce Board is also the state licensing agency for private career schools.*

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