



# Plane Talk

## Aviation Institute of Maintenance Newsletter

VOLUME 29, FALL 2019

CLASS CHAT  
pages 2 and 3

EVENTS  
pages 4 and 5

ALUMNI  
page 6

PLACEMENTS  
page 7

COMMUNITY  
page 8

### Philadelphia Chosen as First Stop "Let VETS Choose" Tour



Both staff and students of the Aviation Institute of Maintenance in Philadelphia were afforded the honor of participating in and hosting CECU's (Career Education Colleges and Universities) "Let Vets Choose" rally on Thursday July 25, 2019. This rally was centered around shedding light on vociferous debates involving the

allocation of VA education benefits. Veterans for Career Education (VCE) supports the right of veterans to use their earned benefits to gain career skills at the college or institution of their choice. The Aviation Institute of Maintenance in Philadelphia was chosen as the very first stop on a long cross country tour, and we were beyond ecstatic to share

in the support of such a monumental cause. Our staff and students not only helped promote this rally, but they also were able to connect VCE with some future ambassadors as well, such as

**"we were beyond ecstatic to share in the support of such a monumental cause."**

state Representative Martina White. We look forward to assisting with the continuing efforts of allowing choice to remain in our heroes' hands. "The veterans of our military services have put their lives on the line to protect the freedoms that we enjoy. They have dedicated their lives to their country and deserve to be recognized for their commitment," stated Judd Gregg, former governor of New Hampshire.

### Aviation Institutes Continue To Expand



In Plane Talk's Summer 2019 edition, we at the Aviation Institute of Maintenance were thrilled to announce the opening of our Charlotte, North Carolina campus as part of a continued effort to address the growing workforce demand for skilled technicians. As campus number twelve, AIM Charlotte is currently home to our FAA approved Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) program and is our first campus to offer our Industrial Manufacturing Technician (IMT) program to address Charlotte's growing demand for an experienced manufacturing workforce. And if that weren't reason enough to celebrate, AIM has officially acquired the Teterboro School of Aeronautics located in Teterboro, New Jersey as school number 13.

Founded in 1947, Teterboro School of Aeronautics has a long history of training in Aviation Maintenance

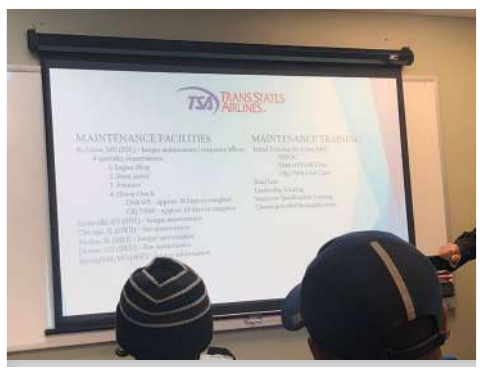
on traditional reciprocating engines. With the introduction of the "Jet Age" in the 1950s, Teterboro's facilities were expanded to include jet-powered aircraft. The increase in both curriculum and campus space eventually created an enrollment allowance of up to 450 students. Teterboro School of Aeronautics is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC) and is an FAA-approved school. This acquisition will allow AIM to offer our AMT program to train students only a few miles from some of the most trafficked airports in the country such as LaGuardia International and Newark Liberty International.

Our dedication to enriching lives through career training is revealed in the thousands of students and successful graduates our programs have produced. AIM is delighted to add Teterboro to its list of successful Aviation Maintenance schools.



## Houston Welcomes Trans States Airlines to Campus

By Tiffany Pothier



AIM Houston students and graduates provided a warm welcome to hiring representatives from Trans States Airlines on July 11, 2019. Recruiting Manager Doug Franciscus spoke to AIM Houston students nearing the end of their Aviation Maintenance Technology program and graduates in both day and evening presentations about

opportunities in the world of aviation maintenance and Trans States, specifically. Mr. Franciscus showcased the number of new planes they have on order and how their organization will be growing over the next few years and their plans to add more A&P positions. During his visit, Mr. Franciscus stressed the importance of taking the final step of gaining an FAA Airframe and Powerplant certification after completion of the program. After his presentation, he answered questions covering various topics including requirements for working with Trans States, which locations take newly licensed mechanics and prospects for growth with the company.

AIM Houston appreciates Trans States Airlines for their support of the work that our students are doing to prepare themselves for their future by acquiring the skills needed to build a successful career in the field of aviation maintenance. We thank them for their encouragement and for providing information for our graduates and for recognizing that they are an excellent source of skilled personnel in an industry with a growing need for high-quality employees.

## Back-to-School "Must Have" Item – The Backpack at Houston

By Rita Pradier



### Davila Elementary

Back Row COR Rita Pradier, DOA Robert Banks, COR Larry Balthazar.  
Front Row Principal Ochoa and staff.



### Gregg Elementary

Back row DOA Robert Banks, COR Larry Balthazar,  
Front row Principal Jackson and staff, COR Rita Pradier

The Backpack – a must-have for pretty much every student from age 3-30 and beyond. But why? The idea of securing your books with a strap and allowing them to hang over your shoulder may have worked decades ago; but in today's world, we must consider ergonomics and heavy weight on the back. Dangling and wayward straps have given way to science, technology, and even fashion. It's cool to carry a backpack to school. More important is selecting the right backpack for your child's school district.

The Aviation Institute of Maintenance in Houston donated backpacks again this summer to not one but two Title 1 schools in the neighboring area. Campus Executive Director Aaron Armendariz presented his staff with a project that every department participated in. Director of Admissions Robert Banks rallied everyone to the packing room set up in assembly-line style. The room was filled with volunteers representing Education, Student Services, and the Community Outreach team – even instructors gave their time.

With the backpack donations boxed and labeled it was now time to coordinate the deliveries. Gregg Elementary was the thankful recipient of backpacks in 2018 and again in 2019. Principal Jackson and his staff greeted us in front of the school to accept 75 backpacks with supplies inside. The students of Gregg elementary are in the feeder pattern for the district's aviation magnet high school which is also an AMH education partner. Future aviators are on the rise here even at the primary grade level. The next recipient is Davila Elementary; also, a school in the boundary of AMH. Yet Davila is unique as it is a magnet school for aerospace and engineering careers and the only one of its kind at the elementary level in the Houston district. Each day the fundamentals of aviation are a part of the curriculum. This means more students will be introduced

**Continue on page 4**

## Fremont Hosts 2nd Annual Scholarship Workshop

By Courtney McCallion



On Friday, August 9th, 2019, AIM Fremont hosted its 2nd Annual Scholarship Workshop. Admissions Representative Ronyelle Moore-Mayfield and Student Services Coordinator Courtney McCallion organized and put this workshop together. In 2018, we had 3 stu-

**“ In 2018, we had 3 students win scholarships from attending these workshops ”**

dents win scholarships from attending these workshops ranging from 1,500-5,000 dollars. We are hoping to get more student winners this year. This introduction workshop walks students through the membership process as well as the requirements to apply for a scholarship. The next workshop is on Friday, September 6th, 2019 to talk about the different scholarships available and the awarded amounts. This workshop has been a huge success for the AIM Fremont campus and we are looking forward to having many more in the future!

## Soaring into Possibilities at Orlando

By Nicole Hammer



As Career and Technical Educators, the biggest indicator that something is working is by the numbers. If the numbers are good, something is being done right. For Florida, this looks like the growing numbers of aerospace and aviation industries. Major employers are coming from all over to seek Florida grown talent and to take advantage of the growing Florida infrastructure. In 2018, SpaceX announced an expansion to continue to develop its Falcon missions. They stated that they intend to launch more rockets from the Kennedy Space Center, 60 miles from the AIM Campus.

SpaceX is not the only major aerospace company to expanding into Florida. Boeing recently announced developing its space facilities in Titusville, Florida, about 40 miles from the school. Boeing intends to work with local Air Force bases, as well as the United Launch Alliance joint venture along with its Atlas and Delta rockets.

Research from the Orlando Economic Partnership projects that aviation and aerospace are not going away. as they, along with defense are targeted industries for the Partnership. The Wall Street Journal in 2018 stated that Orlando International Airport was the 2nd best large airport in the United States. Additionally, The Orlando-Sanford Airport is among the 100 busiest airports in the country.

The Orlando Economic Partnership also states that Lockheed Martin will be building a new research and development facility in Orlando. Aerostar Training Services, BBA/Signature Flight Support, Allegiant Air, and Jeetezy Inc. also intend to expand their facilities into Orlando. The Aviation Institute of Maintenance Orlando Campus is excited for the future of its graduates and all of the possibilities flying ahead.

## Irving Field Trip at C & S Propellers

By Ken Fillpot



On Tuesday, August 20, 2019, AIM Irving instructor, Mr. Ken Fillpot and 23 of his students went on a field trip to C & S Propellers, Ft. Worth, TX. C & S is a fully operational propeller overhaul station that was founded in 1968. They completely tear down the entire propeller to include blade repair, pump and valve housing overhaul, as well as front and rear spinner rebuild. Mr. Justin Gardner, Director of Operations, was the class' tour guide. He explained in detail every aspect that C & S provides for its customers. The entire C & S team was professional, showing the class all areas of the factory. This field trip was a favorite for Mr. Fillpot and his students.



## Orlando Hosts OneBlood Blood Drive

By Gail Strickland



The neighbors of Central Florida came together on Wednesday, August 7, 2019, to support our local community by donating blood. Aviation Institute of Maintenance Orlando, again, partnered with OneBlood to host a Blood Drive. Blood donations assure that blood is available to patients in our local hospitals whose lives depend on it. The Big Red Bus was parked in the lot of AMO and the goal was to collect at least 10 pints of blood. Each pint of blood collected can help up to 3 patients in need. We exceeded our goal and collected 18 pints of blood from community members, faculty, staff, and students. We were extremely excited as we increased the number of pints collected at our drive-in February by 4 pints. All donors received 2 tickets to attend an Orlando City Soccer game and a wellness checkup including blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse and cholesterol screening.

## Back-to-School "Must Have" Item – The Backpack at Houston

*Continued from page 2*

to the aviation industry and develop career goals early on. Principal Ochoa thanked us for selecting her school and explained that the supplies are greatly appreciated. It allows the STEM program to place resources in the areas where they are needed most. Both Davila Elementary and Gregg Elementary exemplify the type of community partnerships we hope to continue to support.

A few AMH staff members shared their memories by answering this question:

*"I used a briefcase style bag that had a handle and a shoulder strap"*

DOA, Robert Banks:

*"Backpack"*

DOFI, Ivy Elias:

*"In middle school I used a shoulder bag; in high school I was cool and carried them in my arms"*

ACD, Jennifer Butler:

*"I carried mine that was a long time ago"*

DOE, Dan Flading:

*"Backpacks in middle school. In high school it was cool to use your locker then carry your books home"*

A&P Instructor,  
Summer Marshall:

## Houston Hosts MD Anderson Blood Drive



The student's foot taps nervously as the technician is about to draw his blood at the AIM Houston blood drive. Though the anxiety is present, the overwhelming feeling of selflessness outweighs his fear. Students check out the t-shirt they will receive and brag about how many times they've donated in the past. The fact that life will be saved from such a simple gesture

“The overwhelming feeling of selflessness outweighs his fear.”

is overwhelming. Many individuals, both young and old, benefit from the contributions made by the students and staff at the AIM Houston campus to the MD Anderson Cancer Center. The halls fill with students as the bell rings for lunch. Before you know it, the line is long and many have to wait their turn for an open station. It tugs at the heart when you're able to witness the greatness in each person as they wait to donate. The pride in making a difference is evident on days like today. Great Job AIM Houston campus. Let's keep making cancer history!

## Philadelphia Teams Up with the Ronald McDonald House



On Thursday, July 25, 2019, staff and students from the Aviation Institute of Maintenance in Philadelphia had the pleasure of teaming up with the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House: Meals-To-Go program. The Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House supports families of seriously ill children by creating a community of comfort and hope; a program that first came about in 1974 continues to offer an amazing resource to families in need. The Meals-To-Go program provides nutrition for stressed families that might otherwise be skipped because of financial difficulties or time constraints. Our team helped prepare healthy breakfast options and had an opportunity to sit and talk with some of the families we helped serve. It was an amazing experience and we all walked away feeling a greater sense of purpose; after all, in the words of Carrie Chapman Catt, "Service to a just cause rewards the worker with more real happiness and satisfaction than any other venture of life."



## Houston's Alumni Enjoy Evening at Top Golf



On Friday, August 2, 2019, AIM HOUSTON ALUMNI enjoyed a fun-filled evening at TopGolf for the first ALUMNI SOCIAL! Grads, Faculty and Staff mixed and mingled between rounds. Endless amounts of food and drinks were available for the grads while they soaked up the atmosphere. This was a great start to many more alumni social events to come. It was an evening to remember!



## Orlando Career Services and Graduates Tour Textron

By Katherine Rolon and Nicole Hammer



Career Services Coordinators, Nicole Hammer (L) Katherine Rolon (R) at Textron facility



AIM Orlando's Career Services Department toured the Textron facility, located just outside the Orlando International Airport (MCO). Textron is the general aviation division of a larger conglomerate focused on aircraft, defense, industrial and financial sectors. The tour provided an opportunity for industry members to learn more about AIM and the capabilities our students have after graduation. Four graduates also attended the tour of the facilities alongside Career Services. Attendees met with Russell Tokarski and Mitchell Spring from Textron to learn about the company and the clients they serve. Attendees learned of the expectations for new hires as well as future initiatives such as the expansion of their facility/tool room. All who toured were able to go inside one of their private planes. After the tour, Mr. Tokarski accepted resumes from the AIM graduates. Career Services and graduates also found a previous graduate that started working for Textron and were excited to share his experience with the company.

AFIA, Abdelrahman	Mesa Air Group	LESTER, Cornelius	Green Fit Placement (InTech Aerospace)
ALLONCE, Carmel B	CTS Engines	LESTER, Tranelius	Green Fit Placement (InTech Aerospace)
ALVARADO, Ramfis A	Advanced Aerospace System	LOAKNAUTH, Amy	Professional Aircraft Accessories
ANGES, John E	LAUNCH Technical Workforce Solutions	LUPOLA, Michael S	L3Harris Technologies, Inc.
ARISTIZABAL LONDONO, Sebastian	Boeing	MAI, Duy	United Airlines-Chicago
BAILEY, Alijah R	Piper Aircraft, Inc.	MARTINEZ MARTINEZ, Silvio	Sky Aerospace Engineering
BAILEY, Edward	AAR	MATHEWS, Michael W	Lockheed Martin Corporation
BARNETT, Trinston	Mesa Air Group	MATTICKS, Jordan D	American Airlines
BERNAOLA, Omar	CTS Engines	MCCAULEY, Kagan	Mesa Air Group
BONNEMA, Zachary P	STS AeroStaff Services	MEDINA, Chelsea	PSA Airlines
BOONE CRUZ, Edward A	Southeast Aerospace	MERCEDES, Michael I	L3Harris Technologies, Inc.
BRENEMAN, Clayton M	L3 Technologies, Inc.	MILES, Kevin A	Universal Studios
BURDIER, Ray J	LAUNCH Technical Workforce Solutions	MILLER, Kyle A	Florida Flight Inc.
CAESAR, Stephon W	L3 Technologies, Inc.	MITCHELL, Erica	Green Fit Placement (InTech Aerospace)
CALDERON, Jose	Mesa Air Group	MITCHELL, Erica	SEZ Aerospace USA, LLC
CAMPBELL, Brett M	National Oilwell Varco	MONDRAGON, Christopher	K & W Aviation
CARRASQUILLO ROMAN, Pedro J	Aero Support Group	MORENO, Alan B	Envoy Air, Inc. (Fort Worth)
CASEY, Shawn	Boeing Company	NOTVEST, Dylan L	Blue Origin
CASTILLO, Crystal	Panasonic Corporation of North America	OLAGBIYAN, Fiyinfoluwa I	Boeing
CHANEY, Jacob P	Crystal Mover Services, Inc.	OPPERMAN, Duncan	Gulf Coast Helicopters
CIVIL, Jeffson K	L3 Technologies, Inc.	PAIGE, James W	PSA Airlines
COLLINS, Curtis	Insight Global	PAREJA, Mateo	Mesa Air Group
CONGLETON, Cameron W	Boeing	PAXTON, Gregory G	DynCorp International
DAVIS, Jonathan E	Envoy Air, Inc. (Fort Worth)	PENA, Luis	VT San Antonio Aerospace
DECASTRO JR, William L	LAUNCH Technical Workforce Solutions	PEREZ AGUILA, Silvio O	LAUNCH Technical Workforce Solutions
DEL ANGEL, Rene	Eagle Aviation Services, Inc.	RANDLE, Saijuan	LAUNCH Technical Workforce Solutions
DEL VALLE FIGUEROA, Abraham	PDS Tech	RAY, Dusty B	Constant Aviation
DISLA, Erick	Universal Studios	REN, Panny	Thales Avionics, Inc.
EBELING, Christopher	Boeing Company	RICO, Jolie	URS Federal Services
EWING, Tyrone	Mesa Air Group	RIDDLE, Dyanna L	Senior Aerospace
FAHEEM, Morcos A	Boeing	RIVERA ORTIZ, Eliezer	Boeing
FERNANDEZ, Amaury	Republic Airways Holdings Inc.	RIVERA, Jan M	STS AeroStaff Services
GAINEY, Lenard E	Boeing	RODRIGUEZ JR., William J	Professional Aircraft Accessories
GILMORE, Danzel	Triumph Group Operations	ROSADO APONTE, Jassiell	TP Aerospace Solutions
GOEKE, Jason W	Mesa Air Group	RUIZ, Steven F	LAUNCH Technical Workforce Solutions
GOMEZ, Carlos A	Aero Support Group	SALAMANCA, Luis A	LAUNCH Technical Workforce Solutions
GOMEZ, Sebastian	Certified Aviation Services	SAN ANDRES, George R	Crystal Mover Services, Inc.
GONZALES PAGAN, Francisco J	Professional Aircraft Accessories	SANDOVAL, Jonnathan O	LAUNCH Technical Workforce Solutions
GOULBOURNE-NEWELL, Tijani K	Boeing	SANTIAGO, Derrick I	Constant Aviation
GRADWOHL, Michael D	Tyonek	SOLACHE JAIMES JR, Efrain	Professional Aircraft Accessories
GRAY, Richard P	Boeing	SPEARE, Kevin P	AAR
GUEVARA, Edgar J	Boeing	STEWART, Stephanie	General Electric Company
HANLEY, Caleb	Panasonic Corporation of North America	SURATON, Xavier R	Piper Aircraft, Inc.
HARRISON, David	Harco Aviation	TAITT, Andre	Green Fit Placement (InTech Aerospace)
HELVESTON III, Robert D	Lee Aerospace	TALLMAN, Colton B	Aircraft Engineering
HUEBNER, Zevonne	Northrop Grumman Corporation	TEUTSCH, Samuel	Envoy Air, Inc. (Fort Worth)
INSANALLY, Feraud S	FEAM Aircraft Maintenance Engineering	THOMAS, Stephen	STS Technical Services Airplanes Inc.
IVY, William	Boeing Company	THOMPSON, Troy	Total Aircraft Services
JOHNSON, Christopher A	Envoy Air Inc	TIJERINO, Justin	Boeing
LAMORA, Brandon S	Mesa Air Group	TURNER, Aaron	F & E Aircraft Maintenance LLC
LAWSON, Javarius M	George Baker Aviation, Inc.	VARGAS JR., Roderick M	Lockheed Martin Corporation
LE, Justin	Mesa Air Group	VILLAVICENCIO JR., Ezequiel	Akerman Aviation
LEHRMANN, Travis	Mesa Air Group	WELCH, Phillip	Mesa Air Group
		ZIA, Haris F	Silver Airways



## Fremont Supports Mission at Saint Vincent's Day Home

By: Courtney McCallion



On Friday, August 2, 2019 Josh Smith Campus Executive Director and staff from AIM Fremont campus donated 220 backpacks to children at Saint Vincent's Day Home located in Oakland, Ca. This nonprofit organization's mission is to, "provide quality early education, care, and development services to those in greatest need while offering family services in which children are nurtured and educated and their parent(s) are supported in meeting their parental responsibilities." The program consists of early learning, nutrition, childcare, and health screening, as well as parent education and social services referrals for low-income, multi-ethnic families struggling toward self-sufficiency. Saint Vincent's serves primarily single-parent families who struggle at or below the poverty line. AIM staff packed each backpack with school

supplies such as construction paper, glue sticks, crayons and pencils. Staff delivered the backpacks to each classroom, and afterwards there was a "Family Day Celebration" to welcome the new families for the school year. There were different

**"Donated 220 backpacks"**

stations with games and food for the families. AIM Fremont is so happy that we were able to partner with this amazing organization again, and give back to these children and help make the start of their new school year just a little bit brighter!

## Houston Joins "Let VETS Choose" Tour Across America Rally

By Andrea Vallien



Veterans and their supporters gathered in the student break area with a purpose on August 21, 2019. The reason for this gathering was to protect the educational rights and benefits of our veterans by protecting their right to choose where they pursue their education. The group was enthusiastic and vocal as the rally went on. It proved to be a much-needed event as many voiced their opinions and gained a sense of support from each other. Each participant left knowing they had done a great deed in attending not only for themselves but for all veterans affected.

## Orlando Delivers School Supplies to Milwee Middle School

By Gail Strickland



On Thursday, August 8, 2019, Aviation Institute of Maintenance Orlando delivered much-needed school supplies to Milwee Middle School in Longwood, FL. The school supplies, which included notebooks, index cards, notebook paper, calculators, binders, pencils and more, will help support Milwee's students, families, and teachers. Milwee Middle is a Title 1, Pre- International Baccalaureate and Pre-Engineering Magnet school located approximately 1.5 miles from AMO. The school serves approximately 1400 students. Title 1 is a federally funded program that provides assistance to support low-income students in elementary and secondary schools. Milwee's Certified School Guidance Counselor, Shannon Lafoy, was extremely excited to receive this gift of support from AMO faculty, staff and students. She explained that the supplies were greatly appreciated as a great number of their students are considered to be underprivileged. According to Ms. Lafoy, one of the greatest barriers to students achieving success is that they do not receive

enough support, including school supplies. A child who does not have the necessary school supplies can find himself or herself missing out on learning opportunities, which hinders student success. In a lot of instances, teachers provide school supplies themselves which can be costly for them and their families.

AMO's goal is to be able to offer school supplies that will help students engage in lessons where they will gain knowledge that will lead them to a better life, assist parents who cannot afford to purchase items for their children and to help teachers by limiting the amount of money they spend to purchase supplies for their students. AMO is planning to continue our outreach to the students of Milwee Middle School with food donations, mentoring and offering them the opportunity to attend our next Jet Camp. This was an amazing opportunity to be able to assist a new generation of students who may be our next AMT's!