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Manufacturing • Sponsored Content by Maricopa Community Colleges

MCCCD's workforce programs help Arizona soar in aerospace manufacturing



Image: Getty Images

Leveraging regional labor markets, Maricopa Community Colleges aligned cutting-edge programs to meet the workforce needs of the aerospace manufacturing industry.

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By Maricopa Community Colleges
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Arizona is emerging as a prominent hub for the aerospace, defense and manufacturing industry with billion-dollar corporations that include The Boeing Company, General Dynamics, Honeywell Aerospace, MD Helicopters, Raytheon Technologies and more. The [Arizona Commerce Authority](#) reports that Arizona is ranked in the top five for aerospace and defense manufacturing employment. It states that the industry provides job opportunities to over 56,500 Arizonans. Furthermore, in 2022, the Aeronautical Repair Station Association ranked Arizona among the top two for aviation maintenance economic activity.

Maricopa Community Colleges, with 10 colleges and 31 satellite locations, is a member of the Arizona Advanced Technology Network (AATN) and serves as a reliable talent pipeline for the fast-growing aerospace and manufacturing industry in Maricopa County. Through strategic industry partnerships with companies like The Boeing Company and Caterpillar Inc., Maricopa Community Colleges have developed innovative programs to ensure that employees receive cutting-edge training and opportunities for career growth. At the same time, employers benefit from having access to a pool of highly skilled people.

“Maricopa Community Colleges is proud to provide a steady pipeline of highly skilled aerospace and manufacturing workforce,” said Steven R. Gonzales, Ed.D., chancellor of the Maricopa County Community College District. “Our innovative programs are designed to give students the competitive edge they need to succeed in today’s economy.”

Leveraging regional labor markets, Maricopa Community Colleges aligned cutting-edge programs to meet the workforce needs of the aerospace manufacturing industry. A few of the programs and bootcamps include:

- **Aircraft Maintenance Technology** prepares students for a career in aircraft structural manufacturing and maintenance with the potential to work in general, commercial, corporate or military sectors. The Aircraft Maintenance Technology program is available at Chandler-Gilbert Community College.

- **Aviation Sheetmetal Bootcamp** is a five-week training that prepares students for sought-after careers in aviation fabrication. The Aviation Sheetmetal Bootcamp is a partnership between The Boeing Company and Chandler-Gilbert Community College as part of the workforce pipeline.
- **Cable Harness Wiring Bootcamp** is a nine-day training that provides students with electrical wiring skills. The industry-recognized certification assures aerospace partners that students are ready to be hired. Upon successful completion of the program, students may have an opportunity to interview with Boeing and many other aerospace companies. The Cable Harness Wiring Bootcamp is available at Mesa Community College.
- **Composite Technician Bootcamp** is a two-week training that prepares students for in-demand careers in aerospace, automotive, computing and other tech fields. The Composite Technician Bootcamp is a partnership between The Boeing Company and Chandler-Gilbert Community College as part of the workforce pipeline.
- **Precision Optics Level 1 Fast Track Certificate** prepares students for entry-level positions in the field of optical systems technology as photonics technicians in two semesters or less. Upon successful completion, students can gain employment working in labs that manufacture and test optics for industries including aerospace, bioscience, defense and more. The Precision Optics Level 1 program is available at Rio Salado College.
- **Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)** prepares students for entry-level positions in the UAS industry by providing fundamental skills and knowledge in UAS mission planning, applications, maintenance, law and regulations, data analytics and project management. The UAS Associate of Applied Science degree program is available at Chandler-Gilbert Community College.

Senator Mark Kelly Tours Community College Aviation Facilities



As a leading provider in workforce development training, Maricopa Community Colleges is a pipeline for Arizona's aerospace and defense manufacturing industry, providing corporations with the highest caliber of skilled, educated workers.

Learn more about Maricopa Community Colleges at maricopa.edu.

The Maricopa County Community College District includes 10 individually-accredited colleges - Chandler-Gilbert, Estrella Mountain, GateWay, Glendale, Mesa, Paradise Valley, Phoenix, Rio Salado, Scottsdale and South Mountain - and the Maricopa Corporate College, serving approximately 140,000 students with bachelor's degrees, two-year degrees, certificates and university transfer programs.