

BTC Aviation Advisory Board Meeting

November 19th 2025

Attendees:

Moses Daly - BTC Aviation Program Director & Post Secondary Instructor	-- Present
Jason Cooper - BTC Aviation & Aerospace Technology Teacher	-- Present
Jason Reed - BTC Director	-- Present
Cynthia Holt - BTC Adult Education Coordinator	-- Invited
Jeffrey Houghton - Vermont Flight Academy	-- Present
Jim Richards - Aerodyme	-- Present
Laura Carotenuto - Heritage Aviation	-- Present
Kathy Fronhofer - Heritage Aviation	-- Invited
Kyle Long - Heritage Aviation	-- Present
Michael Daigneault - Air Guard	-- Present
Bill Jurgen - P&W Canada	-- Invited
Andrew Smith - Aviatron	-- Invited
Sarah DeShaw - BETA	-- Present
Scott Thibeault - Pratt & Whitney Canada	-- Invited

Agenda:

- 1) - Welcome and a tour of the new BTC aviation home at 200 Davinci Dr.
- 2) - Open question and comment period about new mechanic skill levels, employer needs, foreseeable industry changes, and any other changes we should be looking out for.
- 3) - Status of FAA test-taking
- 4) - Consideration for CTE redistricting and the impact on the aviation program.

1. Welcome and tour

Several participants of the Advisory board toured the facility before we got started. This included a tour of the lab spaces, classrooms, and the hangar where

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BTC's planes can now be inside for teaching and learning purposes, rather than out on the ramp in the weather. Students will now have more instruction time because they will no longer have to spend time in the cold and moving aircraft in-and-out of the hangar. Some aircraft did not fit in the former hangar, and they all fit in the new space.

The meeting was in the HS Aviation classroom. We started with introductions and went around the room.

2. Open question and comments / employer needs / mechanic skill levels, etc

Moses - We had a high number of people taking their A&P tests this year. A few were not from Moses's graduating class, from out of state. This is a big improvement. The last class through the program, all the students took at least one of their A&P written tests already.

Laura - why would a student not take a test

Moses - sometimes they may fail a section and then we don't see them again

Note from JC - (it is not uncommon for a graduate to "get busy" with life, work, etc. and just not "get around" to studying for their remaining tests)

Mike D. - Do you have programs for military personnel?

Moses - If they have their paperwork from their military experience, they can get signed off by the FAA to take their test but we don't have a special class. Cynthia is working on some sort of summer class for skill building with people who need experience on something like, "timing a magneto" and other skills. Basically people with prior experience that need some skills to pass their tests or improve proficiencies.

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Mike - The military can still use students if they don't test. They can get sign-on bonuses and stay in aviation with us.

Sarah - could you have a monthly lunch with one local employer?

Jason R. - The classes swap before lunch (one heads back to their sending school and one is arriving to us) - logistically this may be hard.

Moses - What are the needs of the employers?

Silent thought among the group....

Jason C. - Are there any deficiencies in your employees from us, what can we do better.

Jeff - Much of my work force is from your program and they are all doing great.

Kyle - new A&Ps need more troubleshooting skills. Broad troubleshooting skills.

Jason C - I have been slowly adding more troubleshooting in my electrical section but it still takes time and experience on a system to become proficient with troubleshooting.

Moses - They have opportunities to troubleshoot in my program as well. As they are still relatively young, and still working on their perseverance, those skills may not fully develop until out in the field.

Kyle - Talking through problem scenarios on a system may help students learn to start to think about possible solutions.

Moses - What is your policy on phones on the job? How do you approach dealing with them?

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Sarah - Discussions about professionalism and what appropriate phone use looks like helps. We use phones a lot in our business but they still have to be used professionally.

Jeff - If you're in the middle of something important like torquing, you should not be on your phone obviously.

Moses - I don't allow them in the classroom but use them in the hangar as they can come in handy.

Jim - Graduating from the A&P program does not mean you know everything, you need to be able to look up information in the manual and whatever else you have available. It's interesting to see when they realize just how much information is there for them to use.

Mike - Cell phones are not allowed anywhere near you when you work on our aircraft. You need the book open as you work. They have someone looking over their shoulder much of the time and working with them.

Jason R. - Using digital devices in schools has taught students to find things quickly, it may be hard to reprogram student brains to read text from a manual and find the answers with a little more effort. Students come out of high school with various levels of critical and analytical reading abilities.

Jason C - Getting students to read paper text is difficult. They are used to finding things quickly with "shift F" and they don't always find the correct answer. Instead, they find the word they were looking for but in the wrong section and therefore they find the wrong answer.

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Jeff - I would rather have a student that is slow and methodical that asks questions and is unsure than a “bull in a china shop”. We as a company need to take new A&Ps under our wing and help them grow.

Moses - Being curious and wanting to do things right is very helpful in a student.

Kyle - we don't discourage cell phones because they use them but we have metrics about efficiency rates and cell phone use can throw this off and we will see it. We tell our techs, start with the manual.

Jeff - You don't start with turning the wrench

Moses - Take your time and figure it out and then do the work. This happened in our current unit. Students struggled until they finally took the time to read, think about it and figure it out. It was a great learning experience for those students.

Kyle - You will be more efficient when you have done it many times but if it has been a while, it should take you more time.

Jim - I have been working on Commanders for over 20 years and the first thing I still do is, go to the book.

Jason R- Jason gave a brief description about current CTE redistricting talk taking place at the state level. The aviation program could be vulnerable if they make CTE one district. This is primarily because our relationship within the Burlington district helps significantly with cost efficiency. The fact that we are the only aviation maintenance program in the state insulates us from any possible mergers of centers or programs.

Moses - Who could business owners email their concerns to at the state level?

Jason R - it may be too early for that, we can wait and see where this goes. It will depend on which legislative committee takes it on—if they decide to. If it gains

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momentum, prior to crossover, may be the time to voice any concerns. I will keep you all informed about what is happening at the state level.

3. Status of FAA test-taking

Jason C - how is our testing center, is it going to be up and running soon?

Moses - Yes, it closed because our proctor passed. Cynthia has gotten things back up to speed and we hired a proctor. This is a PSI-Cats test center. Reopens tomorrow (Thursday)

Jason R - We found some seed money to pay the proctor (part time, 3 days a week) and we need to figure out how to make it pay for itself. We will need to make sure this is viable and we may need to pool resources to keep it going. This has been communicated to and with VTSU and VFA.

Thank You and the meeting adjourned. Apx 1hr 15 min.