

Quick Take

What:

North Texas Aviation Education Initiative

Significance:

With a high concentration of aviation and aerospace companies operating in North Texas, it is vital that the industry workforce pipeline is prepared to meet current and future employment demands. According to the Texas Workforce Commission, these employers will need nearly 50,000 highly skilled and trained workers in 2020 to remain competitive in a rapidly evolving global market. Considering the industry's annual economic impact of over \$40 billion, it is imperative that the local workforce is informed, educated, and skilled.

By the Numbers:

300+

The number of aviation employers in North Texas. NCTCOG is forging partnerships with schools across the region to ensure students who want to fill aviation and aerospace jobs in the future receive the necessary training.

NCTCOG Education Program Aims to Inspire Next Generation of Flyers

The airline industry will require approximately 617,000 new commercial airline pilots nationally over the next 20 years, according to aircraft manufacturer Boeing. Technicians will be in even higher demand. Boeing estimates that 679,000 new maintenance personnel will be required industrywide by 2035. In North Texas, Lockheed Martin will need 1,800 aircraft technicians on its F-35 production line alone by 2020.

In response to the widely recognized need for additional aviation workers in the region, the North Central Texas Council of Governments developed the North Texas Aviation Education Initiative to reach students interested in pursuing careers in the industry. With the help of a consultant, NCTCOG directed a comprehensive study of existing assets and resources and developed a strategic plan that creates the foundation for an integrated aviation education and employment system in North Texas. Through the initiative, the region seeks to create and sustain a system that fosters individual aviation careers, as well as regional aviation viability and growth.

NCTCOG and the DFW Regional Aerospace Consortium have teamed up to pursue the goal of improving the aviation education opportunities in the region. Together, they work with area school districts to inspire students to consider science, technology, engineering and mathematics through local STEM programs, with the hope that many of them will gravitate toward aviation. The three keys of NCTCOG's efforts are outreach, education and mentorship. Each component is featured in multiple avenues of programming.



Photo: Getty Images

STEM programs provide students training in science, technology, engineering and math, which will help prepare them if they decide to pursue careers in aviation.

FACTSheet

What We're Doing

FLYBY DFW App

With two major commercial airports, a large military installation and aviation and aerospace companies with significant operations in the region, opportunities abound for the next generation of North Texans to become involved in the industry.

While reaching youth in the classroom is important, NCTCOG is also turning to technology most people already use at home.

Tapping into the interests and everyday skills of the next generation's work force, gaming is an effective way to inspire and engage the pilots and aerospace technicians of tomorrow. Research shows that most children ages 2-17 spend time gaming on a variety of devices. With FLYBY DFW, NCTCOG and its partners found a new way to reach future aviators and aviation professionals.

The game is available for Apple and Android devices by searching "FLYBY DFW."



The FLYBY DFW app is one component of NCTCOG's efforts to prepare the next generation of aviation professionals. The game tests players' flight skills and aviation knowledge. It is available for free for Android and Apple devices.

Speakers Bureau

NCTCOG's aviation Speakers Bureau includes aviation-related instructors, professionals, experts and enthusiasts who volunteer their time and expertise to peak student interest in the aviation and aerospace industry. The Speakers Bureau is a great resource for educators looking for guest speakers in the classroom and for special events.

The bureau is also a source of potential mentors for students interested in aviation-related careers. A guest speaker who chooses to become a mentor can share valuable knowledge and practical guidance to help students on their journey to a successful career.

Aviation Careers Website and Planning Tool

The aviation careers website was created to offer students an interactive career pathway tool to explore viable aviation and aerospace careers, aviation education options (high schools, colleges, and certification programs), educational program requirements, job outlook, potential employment opportunities, and grant and scholarship resources. The career planning tool was designed to help students learn about specific aviation careers based on their interests (e.g., flying, controlling, management, maintenance, design, or operations). Salaries, employers in the region, and other basic information are included for each career type. Features include a calendar of aviation-related events, news, and videos and is available on numerous social media platforms. For more, visit www.nctaviationcareers.com.

Local Collaborations

NCTCOG learned from the North Texas Education Initiative study that to increase the region's aviation career talent pool, collaboration is essential. In that spirit, NCTCOG has worked with multiple local organizations with similar interests, including the DFW Regional Aerospace Consortium, Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County, Commemorative Air Force, and Lockheed Martin. With help from these and other partners, NCTCOG will continue to spread the word about regional aviation education.



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