Chesapeake Receives Prominent Awards from FAA and NATA

By Brad Groom, AMN

The Aviation Institute of Maintenance Chesapeake, Virginia campus is the proud recipient of the prestigious 2016 Diamond award of Excellence from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Maintenance Technician Awards Program and the National Air Transportation Association Five star (NATA) AMT Employer Recognition Award.

The Diamond Award from the FAA and the Five Star NATA award are employer recognition programs that aviation organizations can receive that encourage and support aviation maintenance technician training.

One hundred percent of AIM’s full time instructors earned individual awards for completing a minimum of twelve hours or more of training through the FAA AMT Awards Program.

“Continuous improvement in personnel growth is important for the faculty at our school. Our students benefit tremendously from the dedication our instructors have to help educate future A&P’s,” says Brad Groom, Assistant Campus Director.

The Diamond Award and the Five Star Award are the highest awards granted by the FAA and NATA.

Career Fair Hosted by AIM

Indy Sees Huge Turnout

By Erica Wheller, AMI

In early May, sixteen employers came out to support AIM Indianapolis for their long awaited career fair. There were both aviation and non-aviation employers in attendance for the event. Gulfstream, PSA Airlines, Republic Airways, United, Ameriflight, Airborne, AAR Corp., and GE Aviation to name a few, were all looking for A&P mechanics right out of school.

Several students had great things to say about the event. “It was really fun and awesome to see all the employers,” stated Randy Thompson. Randy interviewed with Gulfstream before the career fair started. “Gulfstream is on the top of my employer list for when I finish next month.” Even the instructors were impressed with the turnout, “It’s exciting to see all the interest from all the companies,” said Mike Morgan one of our day instructors.

Shane O’Rourke had lots of things to say about the fair as well. “This was a great idea by the school. It was really beneficial to all the students. It was a great opportunity for the students to meet up with several different employers at the same time.” All the students felt it gave them a better idea of what to expect when it comes to the interviewing process and will aid them in their future looking for employment.

With over 180 in attendance, the career fair was open to the public as well. Posting flyers in local apartment complexes and businesses helped to generate new leads for admissions and to get the word out to the community about our campus. All of the employers stated they would be interested in attending another career fair. AIM Indy will host their next fair in the fall.

Manassas Introduces Aviation and Unmanned Operations

IT’S A BIRD; it’s a plane; it’s a UAS. Hovering high above the trees at 145 feet is an AMM drone. Just below the clouds, to the delight of PAC members, Leo Garcia demonstrates the highlights of piloting this incredible flying machine. All are astounded at the pictures this little aircraft provides. AMM will have classes for Introduction of Aviation and Unmanned Operations; along with UAS Operator Flight Training in July, August and October of 2017. Up...up...and away.
In honor of Women’s History Month, Atlanta’s NPR Station, WABE, highlighted AMA’s female students on a radio show called “Closer Look with Rose Scott and Jim Buress”. Only 5 percent of currently-working aviation mechanics are women, and AMA’s student body is made up of roughly 10 percent women. But the number is steadily growing!

The interviewees were Ben Sitton (Campus Executive Director), Deb Wade (Director of Compliance and Administration), Fernanda Dias (AMA alum), and a trio of current female students at AIM Atlanta: Crystal Koen, Harmony Tahmalwash, and Kelsie Dean.

Prior to the interview, Deb Wade gave the NPR team a tour of the campus and explained the facility and how AMA works behind the scenes. Following the tour, Kelsie Dean and Harmony Tahmalwash spoke about their AMT career paths. “I wanted to do something technically involved. When I started here, there were only 4 girls and now it’s doubled!” Kelsie said. She also mentioned how people are often thrown off by the fact that she is training to be an AMT.

Crystal Koen, a student in AIM’s welding program, spoke about getting started in welding and she briefly explained the process of welding. Crystal was a welder before starting her AM program. She said, “In order to progress, I knew I needed to learn different kinds of welding—that’s where the money is at. I never knew how much the nation needed welders until I came to school.” She also stated why women make excellent welders—think of the attention to detail and meticulous aspects—she even proclaimed that “most men that I meet say that women make better welders!”

Fernanda, an AIM graduate that previously worked at Delta and is currently working at Epps Aviation, spoke about the challenges and the perks of her career choice. She also gave insight into the day-to-day operations of her life as an AMT, and explained the time difficulties due to FAA restrictions during training and deficiencies. “A lot of women are not in this industry due to time constraints; women’s time is often more limited in life due to both raising children and working, there are more expectations for women to be the caretakers in our world.” However, in her job she feels like she is treated very fairly and that the expectations are no different because she is a woman.

Ben Sitton, AMA Campus Executive Director, spoke about how women in aviation often get “snatched up” by employers. He also spoke about the diversity of AMA students and the reason why many people come to AIM to change their lives. “People often find themselves coming up against a wall in their careers where they can’t move up, and decide to make a positive change.” Aviation is a field that is full of room for growth!


By Diana Volpi, AMA

It is no surprise that the Aviation Institute of Maintenance Houston Campus Skills Team would represent the Aviation Institute of Maintenance in a dynamic event celebrating Aviation Maintenance Technicians. The Houston Hawks are comprised of a vibrant group of students that are driven, dedicated, and passionate about aviation maintenance. These students are the best of the best AIM Houston has to offer and have proven to be a driving force in the AMT competition mainstream. They have proven themselves to be the best at their campus, but have been chosen as an elite group of individuals who have come together as a team to represent all of Aviation Institute of Maintenance schools.

What makes them unique and why do they stand out above the rest? Find out by visiting our blog post at http://www.aviationmaintenance.edu/blog/ap-certification/aim-houston-hawks/
On Friday, June 9, 2017, Gabrielle Farrell, Career service Coordinator, hosted the annual graduation festivities here at AIM Philadelphia. This graduation was a very special one, as we had over 60 students walk. This was one of the largest graduations we have held here on campus. We had three phenomenal speakers. Mr. John Davies, hiring manager for Spirit Airlines, Mr. Mark Voss, president of Thermodynamic Services LLC, and Mr. Bill Walker, a retired military pilot who flew our WWII Huey helicopter which is currently housed in our airframe hangar. All three speakers shared stories of how their real life experiences have led them to be successful in the aviation field and how a little hard work and determination really does pay off.

Jessica Weney, Student Service Coordinator, inducted the first 16 students into our Alpha Beta Kappa National Honor Society. Being a part of this distinguished honor society is a huge accomplishment and something for the current students at AMP to strive for as they work towards finishing their AMT program.

We look forward to having many more successful graduations like these in our future!

---

Manassas Salutes Another Graduating Class

In April, once again the AMM family gathered in the hangar and gave our blessings to another generation of Professional Aviation Maintenance Technicians. AMM’s Instructor of the Year, Jim Haver was so proud to step up to the podium to present the Valedictorian, Matthew Davis, an award. Jim is an amazing teacher and mentor to our students. His career has spanned positions from A&P Mechanic to Instructor to School Director. We at AMM are honored to have such an incredible faculty member on staff. We are also proud of all of our graduates, including Matthew Davis, our Valedictorian.

---

Philadelphia Campus Honors Grads at Commencement

By Jessica Weney, AMP

Honor Society is a huge accomplishment and something for the current students at AMP to strive for as they work towards finishing their AMT program.

We look forward to having many more successful graduations like these in our future!

---

Atlanta Recognizes American Welding Society Scholarship Winners

By Diana Volpi, AMA

Each year the American Welding Society (AWS) Foundation is committed to supporting students, instructors, and schools with welder training scholarships. In May 2017, AIM Atlanta metro had three students win financial awards. These three welding students are leaders inside and outside of the classroom. They had to provide the American Welding Society Foundation with their transcripts, letters of reference from instructors and employers, and an essay about their career goals and how they are involved in community service. AIM Atlanta metro is proud to recognize all of their scholarship recipients:

- Crystal Koen (center), winner of the $1,000 AWS District Scholarship.
- Nicholas Huey (left), winner of the $1,000 AWS District Scholarship.
- Isaac Ortega Perez (right), winner of the $1,000 AWS District Scholarship and the $2,500 AWS Welder Training Scholarship.

Congratulations to Crystal, Nick, and Isaac!

---

Accredited School, ACCSC. Some scenes may depict career opportunities. Not all programs available at all locations. Financial Aid for those who qualify. AIM - Chesapeake and AIM - Manassas are Certified to Operate by SCHEV. For more information about our graduation rates, the median debt of students who completed the program, the Notice of Non-Discrimination and other important information, please visit our website at www.AviationMaintenance.edu.
Las Vegas Honors Latest Graduates at Commencement Ceremony

By Melissa Dean, AIML

On June 16, AIM Las Vegas held a graduation ceremony in the campus’s aircraft hangar. In attendance were AIM staff, instructors, graduating students and their families. The aesthetic of the room was appealing to say the least. Table tops were adorned with crisp clean table cloths and two kinds of cake were served in the spirit of the graduation celebration.

Lisa Nordman, Assistant Campus Director of AIM Las Vegas, began the ceremony with a warm welcome. Instructors were then introduced as they stood to congratulate the graduates on the successful completion of their Aviation Maintenance Technician programs. Nordman invited each graduate up to receive their Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) diplomas.

Graduate Wendell Gilkey was honored with the coveted title of Valedictorian of his graduating class. Program Coordinator David Seddon and Student Service Coordinator Evangeline Massey created a “Time of Your Life” DVD which captured key moments along the educational journey of the graduates during their time at AIM Las Vegas. Along with their diplomas, each graduate received a copy of the DVD as a keepsake.

Congratulations to the AIM Las Vegas, May and June 2017, AMT graduates!

Chesapeake Grads Walk Amongst Historic Warbirds For Commencement Ceremony

By Cherie Snow, AMN

The Aviation Institute of Maintenance (AMN) in Chesapeake held their summer graduation ceremony on Saturday, June 23rd, 2017 at the Military Aviation Museum located in Pungo, VA. The ceremony was held in the Navy hangar which was arrayed with beautiful Navy planes surrounding the ceremony stage giving the guests a rare opportunity to see everything up close and to get some amazing photos! The ceremony was attended by 28 AMT graduates and over 200 guests cheering them on. Guest speakers included Timothy Jenkins, alumni from VLinc Corporation and Hogan Kendrick from PSA Airlines. Our Valedictorian was Wade Sellers and color guard was our very own SVO!

It was an amazing celebration! All guests and graduates had the opportunity to tour the museum after the ceremony and enjoy a light reception. It was a great day to celebrate such amazing accomplishment! We look forward to seeing where these graduates go and where they end up. Congratulations AMT graduates on all your hard work! You did it!
On May 24, 2017 AIM Houston celebrated Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) Day at United Airlines with grilled burgers cooked by the airline’s top-of-the-line chefs. This invitation-only celebration was organized by United Airlines and involved a behind-the-scenes tour of their maintenance facilities. AIM Houston and staff were engulfed in a wave of excitement as they engaged in the tour.

The tour allowed students to experience firsthand just what a day in the life as an AMT is like, as they toured the inside of an airliner. While in the aircraft, students were given the opportunity to learn how to fix a broken seat, view the captain’s section, and become familiar with how wires are routed throughout the plane.

While students navigated through their journey, they were met by several AMTs and were allowed the opportunity to ask them questions. Speaking to the AMTs was one of the highlights of the tour and students received answers to their questions, which facilitated more excitement about becoming AMTs.

One student exclaimed, “I can’t wait to get back to class tomorrow and learn more about propellers! I believe I can do this and I really want to become an AMT. Thank you for bringing us here.”

After completion of the Q&A session, United Airlines AMTs shared their backgrounds, career paths, and a few tips on how to be a successful AMT with the students and staff. The AMTs expressed their excitement over looking at a plane and knowing that they were instrumental in the plane’s safe travel. The students recognized the important role they will play as future AMTs.

We would like to extend a special “thank you” to United Airlines for inviting AIM Houston students and staff to participate in such a wonderful opportunity and for influencing the lives of our aspiring AMTs. It was a day they will never forget.

On May 24, 2017, AIM Atlanta observed National AMT Day in honor of Charles E. Taylor, the man recognized as being the first official A&P mechanic (he was responsible for maintaining the Wright brother’s first aircraft!). Campus staff prepared and served a special meal for students, complete with hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, chips, cookies and refreshing drinks. After lunch, all classes participated in a series of competitive events. These events included: tug of war, marker beacon, carrier landing, and island hop. Mr. Murawski’s (Day Instructor) and Mr. Masters’ (Evening Instructor) classes took the cake and won a pizza party for receiving the most points. All students had a great time and learned some new skills too!
Philadelphia Campus Celebrates AMT Day with Students

By Jessica Weney, AMP

On Wednesday May 24, Jessica Weney, Student Services Coordinator, and the staff of Aviation Institute of Maintenance Philadelphia hosted its annual AMT Day and Student Appreciation BBQ.

The day was filled with fun activities set up in the parking lot and hangar for students to take advantage of on their breaks. A variety of lawn games were set up for the students to play, staff and instructors cooked and served BBQ foods to the students for lunch and dinner, and Rita’s Italian Ice came out to provide delicious refreshments for dessert.

In addition to the food and games, a representative from Snap-on, Doug Roseberry, was on campus to talk to all students about tools and different specials running for current students and grads. Representatives from a local State Farm branch were also on hand to give students quotes for insurance. If a student signed up they received a $5 Wawa gift card.

All the students enjoyed the day and are looking forward to many more campus events like this one!

Oakland Holds Trivia Competition in Recognition of AMT Day

By Karoline Correa, AMS

Each May, AIM Oakland recognizes National AMT Day. This year, the campus decided to try something different to get students involved in the history behind AMT day, so we hosted our first ever Campus Trivia Battle. Each block, from both day and night classes, was asked to choose 2-3 classmates to represent them. The topic chosen was Aircraft General Sciences, broken down into the four subject areas of Aircraft Fundamentals, Weight & Balance, Math, and Physics, with 5 questions per subject. A fifth bonus section of random, aviation/AIM Oakland related questions was added.

Karoline Correa (Director of Career Services) played host to the trivia battle, while judges were comprised of a combination of other campus staff and a special guest judge, recent AIM Oakland graduate, Bryant Gray.

It was a tight competition, with everyone putting forth great effort. The winning team from our day classes was Block 16, whose participating students were Shan Jafari, Justin Padilla and Divyesh Patel. The winning team from night classes was Block 15, whose participating students were Felix Hoang, Damtew Woldehanna and Kevin Wong. The prize for the winning teams was a pizza party for their class and the winning participants got their choice of some free tools to add to their tool boxes.

Orlando Metro Celebrates AMT Day with Students

By Pam Hibbitts, AMO

May 24, the birthday of Charles E. Taylor, the man who built the engine used to power the Wright Brothers first airplane, is designated National Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) Day. Aircraft maintainers, students, companies and organizations around the United States celebrate this day to recognize the dedication of the men and women who keep our aircraft safely flying. This year, the AIM Orlando metro campus celebrated by serving its aspiring AMTs lunch and dinner, as well as holding an essay contest about Charles E. Taylor and his contribution to the aviation mechanic profession.

Preparation for this day began weeks earlier with pictures taken of our mechanics-in-training as they worked on projects in the campus’s hangar. These pictures were later presented to students during an assembly emceed by the Education Department, and were further commemorated on a post card with the students that, upon graduation and the passing of their FAA exams, they will be joining a specialized career field that requires responsibility, integrity and professionalism to ensure the safety and reliability of aircraft. Before concluding the assemblies, Ms. Kuhn and Mr. Watkins announced the essay contest winners. The winners were Thomas Gale for the day shift and Ramfis Alvarado, Essay Contest Winner for the Evening shift.

All in all, it was an exciting endeavor, giving students a chance to see what types of questions they will expect to see on their FAA exams, refresh some of their memories, and to enjoy spirited competition!