



2018 ANTELOPE VALLEY BOARD OF TRADE

Air Fabrication Training and Certificate Program: Antelope Valley College

In early January 2016, the City of Palmdale, Goodwill Industries acting within a contract with the America Job Center in Palmdale, Northrop Grumman, and Antelope Valley College came together for developing a training program to meet an immediate need for several hundred entry level airframe mechanics in the aerospace industry over the next three years.

In putting together the program it was patterned after some existing program curricula at the college: Airframe Fabrication and the Airframe and Power program. A total of four courses were selected in a partnership with the college faculty and the industry practitioners. These courses formed a 16-unit certificate. In awarding college credit participants who are successful may move on to the two-year Associate's Degree in either program or even further to the baccalaureate degree at Antelope Valley College in Airframe Manufacturing Technology.

Industry support has been tremendous, particularly from Northrop Grumman who has donated equipment, tools, and supplies to the program. The college partnered with the City of Palmdale by leasing and retrofitting a vacant airport terminal building to use as a training site.

Students take an assessment test and apply to the program through a Contract between Goodwill Industries and the America's Job Center in Palmdale, CA. Once accepted to the program, they are placed on a waiting list that is managed by Goodwill Industries. There is also a route through Jewish Vocational Services which also has a contract with America's Job Center. Students are assessed in math and reading, and screened for U.S. citizenship, criminal record, and drug screening. Students may be admitted to the program through the college without the additional screening, but they cannot be employed in the aerospace industry. The skill sets that are trained also apply to several related industries within the Antelope Valley.

Each student, after admission, competes 320 hours of instruction in eight weeks in a cohort of 25 students. The regular sixteen-week semester courses were compressed into eight weeks. After completion the student is prepared for immediate workforce entry. We are currently providing two cohorts every eight weeks, one beginning early morning and one in late afternoon. Both include study on Saturdays.

Most students are funded through the College Promise Grant in California and Individual Training Vouchers supported by funds from the Workforce Investment Board. The college receives regular apportionment for the courses as they are being offered for credit.

We are currently expanding the program to add an additional cohort of 25, This requires retrofitting space and purchasing equipment.

This program is easily replicable even if college credit is not awarded. The keys are strong industry involvement, jobs at the completion of training, and commitment by the college to provide the training and education. There are many alternatives for funding currently available.

The following is some student data:

- Total number trained January 2016 through January 2018 329

• Currently enrolled and training in February 2018	98
• Hired by Northop Grumman	286
• Hired by related industries (BYD, Kinkishario, etc)	25
• Completion rate	in excess of 90%
• Placement rate	95%
• Females	57
• Veterans	21
• Low income students	197
• Minority students	104
• Homeless students	14