



**SAWDC Aviation Cluster Meeting Minutes**  
AIDT Alabama Aviation Training Center Room 3  
Held on February 15, 2017  
9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

**In Attendance:**

Jennifer Ogle, Airbus FAL  
Bill Hafner, VT MAE  
Ken Berga, UTC Aerospace  
Christopher Valdez, Segers Aero  
Patty Hughston, Coastal Alabama Community College  
Art Rousseau, Alabama Community College System  
Jim Pickard, Alabama Aviation Center  
Lee Hammett, AIDT  
Harry Cecil, ATN  
Larry Mouton, Mobile County Public Schools  
Maurice Mitchell, VT MAE  
Tommy Heaton, VT MAE  
Brad James, Advanced Manufacturing Center  
Ashley Phillips, AIDT  
Marlo Goodway, AIDT  
Sydney Raine, Mobile Works, Inc.  
Tim Gates, ATN  
Nancy Prince, Mobile County Public Schools  
Emily McGrath, Mobile Chamber of Commerce  
Kenneth Ivanic, Project 7 Consultancy  
Ryan Richards, Southeast Alabama Works

**Staff:**

Paul Hodges, SAWDC

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Paul Hodges with SAWDC kicked off the meeting by welcoming the participants and providing a brief overview of the purpose of the cluster meeting. Introductions were made.

**II. Industry Demand**

Among the employers in attendance, there was consensus that there is still increasing need for high demand occupations in the aviation sector. These industry driven positions include: structure insulation mechanics, structure technicians, cabinet installation, quality / inspector, and assembler positions. The employers also added that they would continue to work with the training providers to help fill these positions with new graduates.

### **III. Community College Consolidation**

Mr. Hodges introduced Patty Hughston from Coastal Alabama Community College who provided a brief overview on the consolidation efforts. Ms. Hughston stated that there will be a strong focus on public relations campaigns specifically for Aviation. These efforts will have heavy emphasis on commercials to increase the capacity at the Alabama Aviation Center. Additionally, Ms. Hughston stated that she would need industry support. The Aviation employers agreed to support this effort. Sydney Raine from Mobile Works briefly noted that financial resources will be available to all nine counties in Region 7 beginning in July 2018.

### **IV. Career & Technical Education Update**

Art Rousseau from the Alabama Community College System presented data on Aviation employment trends which support the need to spend dollars in Region 7 for dual enrollment.

### **V. Airframe Mechanics Program Update**

Jim Pickard from the Alabama Aviation Center provided an overview of Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) process of change for industry credentials from the FAA. Mr. Pickard explained that this is the first time in almost fifty years that FAA has changed the curriculum requirements to industry needs. This change is anticipated in July 2017. He requested assistance from subject matter experts, from industry partners, for input on the curriculum.

### **VI. Partner Updates**

Lee Hammett from AIDT gave an update on training programs for both new hires and existing employees. Harry Cecil from ATN reviewed the Statewide Automotive/Aerospace Supplier Core Tool Training Schedule for 2017. Nancy Prine and Larry Mouton from Mobile County Public School System gave updates on dual enrollment and paid internships during the Summer. Additionally, Mr. Mouton mentioned the potential for a new CTE Center in Brookley and more details to come. He also stated that MCPSS will be coordinating a Career Job Fair on May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017 at the Fairgrounds.

### **VII. Future Meeting Dates and Adjournment**

Mr. Hodges proposed hosting the Aviation cluster meetings on the first Wednesday of every quarter and due to multiple upcoming events, the next Aviation Cluster meeting will be tentatively scheduled for September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

The meeting was then adjourned with unanimous consent.