DATE

Dear Parent/Guardian:

One behalf of the aviation community, we are pleased to welcome you and your student to an inaugural class that will explore an exciting field of study through the Choose Aerospace Aviation Maintenance Curriculum.

Your school is one of only fifteen in the country to pilot test this new and innovative training initiative, led and supported by stakeholders with a vested interest in creating a diverse, qualified technical workforce for the aviation industry. Through the non-profit Choose Aerospace, a team of industry advisors oversee development of the content—created in collaboration with Clemson University’s Center for Workforce Development—to ensure that it aligns with the skills and knowledge required of today’s Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certificated aviation mechanics. Learn more about the organization and the curriculum at [chooseaerospace.org/curriculum.](https://www.chooseaerospace.org/curriculum.html)

Should your student elect to continue this field of study—and we hope they will—several pathways are available. Completion of the Choose Aerospace curriculum puts students on a path to FAA mechanic certification either through direct employment at a company like AAR Corp, or through transfer credit opportunities at a network of aviation maintenance technician schools. Either election will result in long-term career opportunities.

Over the next two decades, the aviation industry will need to hire 134,000 new aviation maintenance technicians in North America alone.[[1]](#footnote-1) The average starting salary for a newly certificated FAA mechanic is $53,000.[[2]](#footnote-2) Whether an individual obtains FAA certification or not, the average salary for an aviation maintenance technician is $66,000, with a good portion of technicians earning six figures a year.[[3]](#footnote-3)

We congratulate you and your student for taking the opportunity and thank you in advance for encouraging your student, inquiring about their progress, and cheering them on through what will be a challenging yet rewarding program.

All the best to you and your student for a very successful school year.

Ryan Goertzen

President, Choose Aerospace, Inc. &

Vice President Workforce Development, AAR Corp.

1. [www.boeing.com/commercial/market/pilot-technician-outlook](http://www.boeing.com/commercial/market/pilot-technician-outlook) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [www.atec-amt.org/pipeline-report](http://www.atec-amt.org/pipeline-report.html) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [www.mynextmove.org/profile/summary](http://www.mynextmove.org/profile/summary/49-3011.00) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)