



Addressing the Demand for Mechanics & Pilots in Alaska

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History



- A & P program started about 50 years ago
- Initially a Fairbanks school district program
- Acquired by Community College in late 1970's followed by merger with UAF
- Located off airport at Hutchison Center
- Moved into approx. 19,000 sq ft hangar at FAI 2012/2013
- Today: An important program at UAF Community & Technical College

Program at UAF



- Airframe & Powerplant Certificate
- Airframe Certificate
- Powerplant Certificate
- AAS Aviation Maintenance
- AAS Professional Piloting



Maintenance



- Certificated under FAR Part 147
- Twelve month program
- Students in class 8 hrs/day, 5 days/week
- Students can opt to attend 4 hrs/day for two years
- Training on all types of aircraft
 - Small aircraft
 - Large/transport category aircraft
 - Helicopters
 - Piston and turbine engines

Professional Piloting



- Originally developed as a pathway to a degree for returning Vietnam pilots
- Relatively few graduates
- Offer ground school courses, arctic survival, preventative maintenance

Capacity & graduates – Maintenance



- Limited to 25 students
- Usually start each year at capacity
- Typically, about 19 students complete the program annually
- Students usually have a job offer prior to graduation
- Most graduates stay in Alaska
 - Nearly all graduates employed as mechanics or pilots
 - Graduates go to all parts of the state

Strengths



- Graduates used to a normal full-time work week = good work ethic
- 60% of class time is in the shop working on equipment they will go to work on after graduation
- Exposure to all types of aircraft
- Twelve month program means students are ready to go to work quickly

Strengths (cont'd)



- 98% of graduates pass FAA certification tests on the first try, nearly 100% on the second
- Three full-time instructors with extensive maintenance experience
- Always have women in the program – almost one-third of the incoming class starting at the end of August is women

Challenges – maint.



- Total enrollment limited by size of facility and number of faculty
- Current facility not complete
 - Lacking ventilated room for painting and non-metallics
 - Need welding shop

Challenges - Piloting



- Lack of UAF affiliated flight instruction
- Professional Piloting program needs serious support to be able to include flight training

Opportunities



- In early stages of developing an apprenticeship pathway to A & P certificate at UAF
- Boeing Company initiated talks to partner with UAF maintenance program



Community Involvement



- Fairbanks Aviation Day
 - Over 2000 community participants at our hangar
 - Involves every aspect of FAI airport
 - Annual event
- Runway painting
 - Faculty, students, and community members help paint markings on ski strip at FAI
- Ben Eielson Jenny project
 - Faculty, students, and community members constructed airworthy wings for Jenny now hanging in FAI terminal