



INVESTING TO SPUR WASHINGTON'S ECONOMY AND JOB GROWTH

GOVERNOR GREGOIRE INVESTS \$3 MILLION TO PUT WASHINGTONIANS TO WORK IN AEROSPACE

Washington's economy is emerging from the longest recession of the past 80 years. We see the nascent recovery in the dropping unemployment rate and swelling number of "help wanted" signs in storefronts.

One sector of our economy — aerospace — received good news when The Boeing Company was awarded a \$35 billion contract to build 179 tankers for the U.S. Air Force. As the contract boosts production for airplanes at Boeing plants, 11,000 jobs will be supported or created. Meeting the demand for the next version of the 737, whether a new plane or new engine, will also require skilled workers. We must ensure that these positions at more than 650 Washington state aerospace companies are filled by Washington workers with the right skills.



Our talented work force is a key competitive advantage in the aerospace sector and essential to its continued growth. Washington continues to have the highest number of aerospace workers of any state in the country, with an estimated 84,000 people directly employed in the industry. Yet we face both an aging work force and a need for more engineers. To address these concerns, Governor Gregoire is making investments to help us maintain our competitive edge.

TRAINING FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO WORK

The Governor wants to fill aerospace jobs with Washington workers. Specialized skills required by these companies — from aircraft assembly to electronics components manufacturers — are developed through customized training. In addition, engineers must be educated to fill other jobs. To meet demand, the Governor is directing \$3 million in discretionary federal funding to help unemployed workers, low-income adults, returning veterans and others develop the skills needed by aerospace employers. Under her direction, the Employment Security Department and local partners in WorkSource offices will reach out to thousands of job seekers to help them apply for aerospace jobs and assist with their training.

We have an opportunity to fill these aerospace jobs with the many Washingtonians who remain unemployed. An estimated 228,000 individuals collected unemployment benefits in Washington during March. In total, more than 50,000 workers have run out of unemployment benefits.

Some of the unemployed are returning veterans who have served their country and now find themselves without a job. Helping these workers develop the skills needed to fill the growing number of aerospace openings will speed Washington's economic recovery by keeping those jobs here while putting Washingtonians to work.

In partnership with industry, our community and technical colleges will develop new programs and increase training slots so students can develop the skills that allow them to go directly to work in aerospace jobs. These funds will train more than 400 people for work now while developing new programs to meet future industry needs.

Finally, the Governor wants to encourage more students to seek engineering degrees so Washington can continue to dominate in innovation. The Aerospace Scholars Program has demonstrated enormous success, with nearly 77 percent of its participants choosing to pursue an engineering degree when they enroll in college. A portion of funding will be invested in this proven program.

TRAINING TARGETED TO MEET LOCAL NEEDS

Hundreds of employers comprise Washington's aerospace industry. They provide expertise and deliver products that ultimately are assembled into an airplane or used to service planes. These employers located across our state need a wide variety of skills. In the Puget Sound area, the need is for aircraft assemblers, precision machinists, composites technicians, engineers and inspectors. In Eastern Washington, where hundreds of suppliers build components for and service aircraft, the need is for airframe and power plant mechanics, machine maintenance and precision machining programs. While funds will first be targeted to train those who are unemployed, low income or are veterans, they can also be used by others who need training to land these well-paying jobs.

TRANSLATING TRAINING INTO JOBS

Training alone won't put a person to work. The Governor is also investing in services to assist workers with application materials and interview skills so they are ready to go to work. Preparing workers who have completed customized training to connect with employers who need specific skills will ensure these jobs are filled with Washington workers.

Ultimately, this \$3 million investment will:

- » Buy equipment, classroom space and program development materials to train as many as 180 students in such areas as machine maintenance, precision machining, quality assurance and inspection, and fiber optics;
- » Train approximately 175 students in other fields requested by industry, such as aircraft assemblers, composites technicians, and airframe and power plant mechanics;
- » Recruit and train approximately 135 additional students at the Washington Aerospace Training Center, Inland Northwest Aerospace Technology Center and Renton Technical College, and purchase the equipment to support them; and
- » Encourage more than 100 high school students, through distance learning and summer residency programs, to pursue engineering degrees through the Washington Aerospace Scholars program.

KEEPING OUR EDGE BY INVESTING IN AEROSPACE WORKERS

In the global economy, employers can locate their businesses anywhere. Our highly skilled and capable workers in Washington give us a competitive edge in aerospace. Governor Gregoire is committed to keeping that advantage through strategic investments. Working together, Washington will continue to lead the nation and the world in aerospace with the skilled workers necessary to lead this vital industry.