


Business Leadership Council Meeting Minutes

<b>PROGRAM COMMITTEE NAME:</b>		Aviation BLC Meeting				
<b>Program Coordinator:</b>		Terry Smith				
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>		06/02/25	<b>MEETING TIME:</b>	3:00 PM	<b>MEETING PLACE:</b>	EACC 152 & via Microsoft Teams
<b>RECORDER:</b>		Adriana Soto Rodriguez		<b>PREVIOUS MEETING:</b>	4/19/24	
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>						
List all members of the committee, then place an X in the box left of name if present						
	<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>EMPLOYER INFO</b>	<b>PHONE</b>	<b>EMAIL</b>	
	David Diaz	Owner	Alpha Aviation	(806)333-7332	david@lobooperations.com	
X	Jeremy Stoddard	Maintenance Manager	Bell Flight Textron	(806)206-2402	jstoddard@bellflight.com	
	Ken Parent	Maintenance Manager	Million Air Lubbock	(806)747-5101	kparent@millionairlbb.com	
X (online)	Martin Forde	Manager	IAC	(509)822-9618	martin.forde@iac.aero	
	Nick Kemp	Maintenance Manager	Haven Aero	(806)206-8282	nick@havenasg.com	
	Nick Reed	Manager	Apollo MedFlight LLC	(210)621-3167	nreed@apolloedflight.com	
	Tom Johnson	Maintenance Manager	Apollo MedFlight LLC	(612)508-8105	tomjohnson@apolloedflight.com	
	Travis Lamance	Maintenance Manager	Flight Mechanix	(806)595-0330	travis@flightmechanix.com	
<b>EX-OFFICIO'S PRESENT</b>						
X	Terry Smith	Program Coordinator	Amarillo College	(806)335-4343	tsmith27@actx.edu	
X	Chris Seth	Faculty- Aviation Maintenance Technology	Amarillo College	(806)335-4382	ckseth22@actx.edu	
	Jim Faustina	Instructor- Aviation Maintenance Technology	Amarillo College	(806)335-4381	j0451071@actx.edu	
X	David Hall	Dean of Technical Education	Amarillo College	806-335-4309	dhall36@actx.edu	
X (online)	Ryan Francis	Coordinator Perkins Activities	Amarillo College	806-335-4229	rfrancis@actx.edu	
X (online)	Taya Mamba	Director of Perkins Grant	Amarillo College		tmamba@actx.edu	
X	Adriana Soto Rodriguez	Administrative Assistant	Amarillo College	806-335-4211	a0387635@actx.edu	
<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>		<b>ACTION DISCUSSION INFORMATION</b>				
<b>Welcome and introductions</b>		Terry Smith and David Hall welcomed the employers and staff. Everyone introduced him/herself with their name and title.				
<b>KEY DISCUSSION POINTS</b>		<b>DISCUSSION</b>				
<b>Student Input &amp; Output Numbers</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The current status of the Aviation Maintenance Program was reported, highlighting that 45 students began the year, with 16 graduating and 20 still enrolled. Nine students left the program for reasons such as family matters or pursuing other degrees. Looking ahead, it is anticipated that the program will reach maximum capacity for fall 2025, potentially leading to a wait list.</li> <li>Terry Smith spoke about the collaboration with Ascension Academy for aerospace training. This will train high school students in aerospace through general courses.</li> <li>Students will complete labs and dual credit courses on campus with potentially enrolling in airframe classes the following semester.</li> <li>Ascension Academy has a licensed Airframe and Powerplant teacher. Their curriculum includes quizzes, tests, and learning management system. The students will need to come to our Amarillo College campus for more of the hands on things like ground run and servicing and taxi service.</li> <li>Am Tech will offer adult classes for potential Bell employees.</li> <li>Plans for a new third course launching in late October were announced, which will be part of an eight-week training program.</li> <li>Efforts are being made to secure financial aid for students, and it was indicated that marketing materials will be available in a few weeks.</li> </ul>				

<b>Job Openings/ Company Trends</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates on job openings at Bell were provided, with a need for 25 positions, including 43 mechanics/electricians, and 3 inspectors. A significant ramp-up is expected by 2026 with plans to double staff from 50 to 90 by mid-2026. The hiring strategy includes those without prior experience.</li> <li>• Bell is starting a second shift, with interviews for a second shift supervisor are ongoing.</li> <li>• Mr. Stoddard discusses the importance of hiring local talent the willingness to train with the right attitude.</li> <li>• Terry Smith expressed his willingness to connect military veterans with job opportunities at Bell. Mr. Stoddard suggested he send those names to certain personnel at Bell.</li> <li>• The starting wage for electricians was discussed, with experience and education playing a role in salary.</li> <li>• Mr. Ford from IAC said at the moment he only needed one experienced inspector. He did also mention that next year he would have a need for two more A &amp; P mechanics and three inspectors.</li> </ul>
<b>Perkins Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taya Mamba provided a Perkins update, noting the successful acquisition of the twin-pack turbine engines training package.</li> <li>• Terry Smith shared a slide show of all the new equipment that the department has recently received. He highlighted the roles of the equipment and explained they were crucial for preparing students for real-world aviation challenges. The recent acquisitions included an Ice and Rain Protection Systems Trainer, Digital Engine Instrument Trainer, Hydraulic Test Bench, Red Bird Flying Simulator, and the most recent Twin Pac Turbine Engine Training Package. The total value of all of the items was \$122,787.</li> </ul>
<b>Chair Position For BLC &amp; Vote</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Hall discussed the need to appoint a Chair for the BLC Council. This would ensure all the partners are engaged and have a voice.</li> <li>• The role involves planning meetings and ensuring the agenda is followed. The importance of the co-leadership in the BLC is emphasized, with a focus on collaboration and mutual support.</li> <li>• There was uncertainty about choosing the Chair at this meeting due to only two members being present during this meeting.</li> <li>• Jeremy Stoddard spoke up and offered to take the Chair position. Mr. Forde was ok with this and the new Chair was elected.</li> </ul>
<b>Questions from Employers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Martin Forde expressed his gratitude towards Jeremy and the all of the team for their contributions to the program, highlighting the importance of the class and in retaining local talent in Amarillo.</li> <li>• Students who take the Am Tech adult classes will receive a CE certificate after successful completion of the course. The initial class will start with 10 students and may expand to a 20-seat capacity if successful.</li> <li>• The issuing of a CE certificate for students who complete this class would assist with the tracking and management of records. It will additionally provide proof of completion at the time of hiring.</li> <li>• There is a need for a retired Bell employee to help teach the class, as the current instructors are already overworked. The instructor would need to teach two hours a night, four nights a week for eight weeks, with a possibility of back-to-back courses.</li> </ul>
<b>Adjournment</b>	Terry Smith thanked everyone for attending. He concluded with expressing the importance of sharing knowledge and experiences between businesses to benefit everyone involved. The new Chair, Jeremy Stoddard, called the meeting adjourned at 3:46 pm.
<div> <div>Program Coordinator Signature: Terry Smith</div> <div>  </div> </div> <div> <div>Date:</div> <div>06/13/2025</div> </div> <div> <div>Next Meeting: TBD</div> </div>	