

# M A R Y L A N D

## GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

Center for Industry Initiatives  
Aerospace Industry Initiative  
September 19, 2012

### **Coordinator**

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### **Committee Chair(s)**

Harry Solomon, Director, Engineering Support Programs, Stinger Ghaffarian Technologies (SGT, Inc.)

### **Committee Activities and Updates**

- The Aerospace Leadership Team meets bi-monthly to continue to drive implementation of its initiatives.

### **Aviation Maintenance Technology School at Hagerstown Regional Airport**

- On April 30, 2011, Governor O'Malley arrived at Hagerstown Regional Airport aboard a Cape Air regional flight for the grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony of the Aviation Maintenance Technology (AMT) School. The school, operated and administered by the Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics (PIA), trains students to become entry-level aircraft technicians. Graduates of the AMT program are eligible to sit for the FAA's Airframe & Power plant (A&P) certification examinations. The program, for aviation mechanics, will develop a skilled workforce to fill high-paying aviation maintenance positions and allow Hagerstown Regional Airport to expand services.
- On August 17, 2012, the inaugural class for the Hagerstown campus of the Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics graduated with certifications in aviation maintenance. 17 students proudly received their diplomas from the school's Director. Nearly all have already found employment in the aviation maintenance field.
- A class of 27 will begin the 16-month training course in September, 2012.
- At the Aerospace Leadership Committee held in January 2012, concerns were raised about the need for the school to be in existence for 24 months prior to granting GI Bill reimbursements. The school announced in August that it will begin a special class in April, 2013, for veterans who wish to become students at PIA Hagerstown. That will be the two-year anniversary of the opening of the school and the restriction on the use of GI Bill benefits for tuition will be lifted. The school already has some students signed up for the April start of classes.
- There has been considerable discussion regarding a new business relocating to Hagerstown Regional Airport due, in large part, to the close proximity of PIA Hagerstown. The name of the relocating business is Mecaer Aviation Group of Philadelphia, which performs helicopter and fixed wing repair, maintenance and overhaul. Mecaer has guaranteed 18 full-time jobs at more than \$50,000 per year in exchange for concessions from the county.

- During the August meeting, the Committee began a discussion on encouraging STEM education in K-12. Ideas to excite teachers and educate youngsters on potential careers were examined, with the Committee deciding to pursue this goal. One possible route is to collaborate with the leaders of other STEM-related committees convened by GWIB, along with the Maryland Business Roundtable and the Maryland State Board of Education, to explore best practices.
- At the next meeting, the Committee will be discussing the updating of the GWIB portal and the refreshing its content.

#### **Leadership Committee Members**

- **Anne Anikis**  
Aerospace Engineering Education Consultant
- **Warren R. DeVries, Ph.D.**  
University of Maryland, College of Engineering & Information Technology
- **Connie Finney**  
Johns Hopkins University, APL
- **Glen Fountain, P.E.**  
Johns Hopkins University, APL
- **Robert Gabrys, Ph.D.**  
N.A.S.A. Goddard Space Flight Center
- **Yuanwei Jin, Ph.D.**  
Dept. of Engineering & Aviation Sciences, UMES
- **Dean Kendall**  
Maryland Department of Higher Education
- **Larry Klein, Ph.D.**  
RS Information Systems, Inc.
- **Anoop Mehta, CPA Past Chair**  
Science Systems and Applications, Inc.
- **Katharine Oliver**  
Maryland State Department of Education
- **Luke Rhine**  
Maryland State Department of Education
- **Harold Stinger**  
SGT, Inc.
- **Patrick Tonui**  
Maryland Department of Business & Economic Development
- **Michael B. Yachmetz**  
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