

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE  
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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October 15, 2009

Mr. Jim Albaugh  
President & CEO  
Boeing Commercial Airplanes  
P. O. Box 3707  
Seattle, WA 98124

Dear Mr. Albaugh:

As you know, aerospace is a dynamic, thriving, important driver of our state's economy. Over 80,000 Washington residents work in this industry, and the skills required to succeed are changing constantly.

Our workforce is our primary competitive advantage over other states. However, this workforce is aging, presenting us with two challenges: 1) we need to ensure we are training the next generation of aerospace workers; and 2) we need to ensure we are providing both generations with the most current skills possible to continue to lead our competitors.

Toward that end, I am pleased to tell you that today I allocated \$1.5 million of my discretionary Workforce Investment Act funding to aerospace training in Washington. I directed the funds to the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, to be invested in the following ways:

**\$600,000 for developing industry-driven training centers at Paine Field in Everett and at Spokane International Airport.** Providing customized training for our aerospace workers to keep them skilled in the latest techniques, research findings, materials and processes is vital to continuing our world leadership in aerospace, and these two new centers are working to provide this essential service. The funds will be used to develop curriculum for training programs and cover other one-time start-up costs.

**\$500,000 for new equipment in our colleges.** Our training programs must have access to the latest equipment to effectively train our students in the most current techniques in this constantly evolving industry. The funds will be used to replace old equipment and give students state-of-the-art machinery and tools.

**\$200,000 to K-12 programs that build enthusiasm and interest in aerospace among students,** and inform them of the academic requirements needed to enter the industry. Specifically, we are expanding the successful, inspirational Washington Aerospace Scholars program at the Museum of Flight, under Dr. Bonnie Dunbar.



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**\$100,000 to align curriculum throughout the state.** Our Aerospace Center for Excellence will work with colleges offering similar programs to align criteria in our aerospace offerings, minimizing duplication and helping ensure uniform skill development.

**\$100,000 to facilitate the transfer of research findings into training curricula.** Infusing research findings into our training curriculum is essential to our continued excellence in aerospace. I have asked the Washington Technology Center and the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to collaborate to develop protocols for moving research findings in our Research and Technology Development program into the curricula in our training institutions throughout the state.

Washington is committed to making sure our workers remain the best in the world at designing, building and servicing airplanes. By investing strategically, even in challenging economic times, we are making progress toward achieving that lofty goal.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can answer any questions about these investments.

Sincerely,



Christine O. Gregoire  
Governor