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A classroom for aerospace careers, held in conjunction with Portland Community College, is located at the Hillsboro Airport.

Aerospace Careers for Everyone

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

nance Technology faculty helped design the curriculum for the classes to match courses offered in their programs. Students in the pathway can earn dual college credits through PCC and can participate in a non-profit "Flight Club," created and operated by PCC students. This club allows students access to aviation activities after school.

"These careers are significantly under-represented by females and people of color," said Larry Altree, PCC's Aviation Science Program chair. "Everybody recognizes that the demand for workers won't be met unless schools start pointing kids toward aviation."

According to a report by Boeing, in the next 20 years the aviation industry will face an immense shortage of skilled workers to maintain the North American fleet with pilot demand totaling approximately 208,000, technicians at 192,000 and cabin crew at about 169,000. By unlocking the doors to aviation careers to historically under-represented students, the better chance the industry has at filling this demand.

Chris Barber, a Southwest Airlines pilot and an Oregon Airshow Charitable Foundation board member, initially approached PCC about creating a program

that could spur interest in aviation for high school students. It is estimated that 93% of the industry's professional pilots are made up of white males.

"As an airline pilot I recognize that our community looks very similar to myself," said Barber, who is white. "We do not do a very good job of recruiting females or people of color to the aviation community. We need to diversify because there's a huge shortfall."

As a result, PCC, the Hillsboro School District, the Oregon Air Show Charitable Foundation Board and the Port of Portland all came together to make the educational pathway happen. The Port of Portland provided classroom space at the airport's terminal building in the form of the former KUIK radio station studios, which has expansive views of the airport's tarmac. The Oregon Air Show Charitable Foundation funded the renovation along with donations of services from local businesses.

The renovation and remodel was led by experienced volunteers from the Hillsboro Rotary Club, Hillsboro School District, Oregon International Air Show, Port of Portland and the Oregon Air Show Charitable Foundation. In total, the partners tallied 1,800 to 2,000 volunteer hours to make this project happen.

"Our mission is to enhance the region's economy and quality of life through trade and transportation," said Steve Nakana, social equity manager for the Port of Portland. "Breaking down barriers and providing equitable, educational opportunities is critical to our roadmap for regional prosperity and we are proud to partner with O-ACE in their endeavor to expose students to career pathways in the aviation industry."

Students from any Hillsboro high school are eligible to apply for the O-ACE Program with courses built into the students' daily schedule. They can start taking aviation immersion courses and summer boot camps in addition to college-level credit classes. By the time they graduate, they will have amassed 16 dual credits for Aviation Science or up to 13 credits for Aviation Maintenance through PCC and can seamlessly transition into either program.

The first-ever cohort started this year and has nearly 40 students from around the school district enrolled.

"Many students within the district will never get the opportunity to experience aviation mainly because of the cost," said Sheryl Fisher, a bilingual licensed pilot who teaches the classes. "This program gives students more career choices in their lives."

Advancing Equity in the Courts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

the public about historical racial disparities in Oregon law, the impact of implicit bias and how to overcome those biases, among

other impacts.

She was nominated for the award by a group of Oregon jurists and state court administrators, including support from Oregon Chief Justice Martha L.

Walters, Gov. Kate Brown, and Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum.

A former Multnomah County Judge, Nelson's legal career has spanned nearly 25 years.