

TSTC, Bombardier celebrate federal apprenticeship program registration



(Photo Credit: Waxahachie Daily Sun)
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RED OAK – Representatives of Texas State Technical College and Bombardier announced Wednesday the registration of the company's apprenticeship program by the U.S. Department of Labor.

The Bombardier Aviation Apprenticeship Program is based at TSTC's North Texas campus in Red Oak. The program was announced in December 2019 and to date has trained 55 people to work at the Montreal-based aviation company.

"This will enable Bombardier to attract qualified individuals from the United States," said Tony Curry, the company's general manager. "We need to bring people together to be a part of our program. These people start with no experience and we train them to start a successful career path."

Describing the training program as a grassroots pipeline to produce aerospace workers, Curry said he's happy the company can provide training at TSTC and good-paying jobs for its future employees. "We could not have wished for a better partner," Curry said.

Marcus Balch, provost of TSTC's North Texas campus, credited the TSTC Workforce Training department's collaboration with Bombardier in helping to make the training happen. "There is a desire to come on at Bombardier," Balch said. "It is evidence of how you treat your people. People need good jobs. This program offers the chance to be a part of the growing workforce."

The apprenticeship program will have eight cohorts by 2022. Each cohort has about 25 members, who train for 90 days at TSTC and go through 90 days of on-the-job training at the company. The third cohort is being trained.

“This is a great opportunity for anybody who wants to do this or needs a career change,” said David Setzer, executive director of Workforce Solutions of North Central Texas. The company’s more than 900 employees produce the advanced metallic wing for the Global 7500 aircraft in Red Oak, with Mayor Mark Stanfield saying, “We are so excited to be a part of this partnership. We are so grateful for Bombardier, TSTC and the Department of Labor.”

Former Red Oak Mayor and now Ellis County Judge Todd Little credited Bombardier with investing in the county’s youth and changing the landscape of opportunities in the county. “The best is yet to come for our next generation,” he said. “When I became mayor 20 years ago, I asked my staff, we have 137 acres of industrial development land. What are we going to do with it? With Bombardier’s partnership, we have made an investment in our youth through an apprenticeship program that has helped shape the landscape of opportunity across Ellis County and has shown light on the greatness we have to offer here at home.”

For more information on Texas State Technical College, go to tstc.edu.