

NEWS RELEASE

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North Idaho College to Use \$25,000 Micro-Grant for Aviation Industry Training

North Idaho College plans to use a \$25,000 Idaho Department of Labor micro-grant to train 28 aviation assemblers and mechanic assistants beginning this summer.

Initially, training will be offered to high school seniors who want to work in the industry after graduation. The first of two courses will take place this July and the second in July 2017 at Sandpoint High School. Training will include a combination of online courses and classroom laboratory settings. Those who complete the assembler course in the summer following graduation will be eligible for employment.

Employer partners will provide internship and job shadowing opportunities along with facility tours. The training can also be rolled into the NIC Aerospace Technology program should a student wish to pursue further education in the discipline.

Of the 28 individuals anticipated to attend training, 25 are expected to begin working within 30 days of completion at an hourly wage of \$12. Three trainees are expected to pursue postsecondary education.

Partners providing \$71,125 cash or in-kind support include Quest Aircraft, Empire Aerospace, Aerocet Inc., Idaho PTECH Network, Quest Kambara Foundation, North Idaho College and the Idaho Division of Professional Technical Education.

The micro-grant program, approved by the Idaho Workforce Development Council and funded through the Idaho Workforce Development Training Fund, provides up to \$25,000 per grant to local and rural communities for workforce development projects on a smaller scale than the traditional projects. Approved projects must increase employment and wages of a community's workforce or assist in stemming the out-migration of youth and young adult workers from Idaho communities.

A complete description of criteria can be found at <http://labor.idaho.gov/WDTFmicrogrants>. Applications are reviewed and approved by a panel of representatives from business, education, economic development and the Idaho Department of Labor.

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