

Helena College and Boeing

Building a Talent Pipeline and Supporting Education

OVERVIEW

In 2008, Helena College began a unique partnership with Boeing, then Summit Aeronautics, to develop an innovative curriculum that met the needs of the industry, ensuring that students are workforce ready immediately upon graduation, if not sooner.

THE PARTNERSHIP

Boeing currently serves in an advisory capacity for Helena College and has a seat on both the Helena College Computer Aided Manufacturing Advisory Board and the Helena College Aviation Advisory Board. In addition to the School + Work full-time program, each of the students in the Computer Aided Manufacturing program is positively impacted by the partnership with Boeing through scholarships, internships, tuition reimbursement, and program support.

Helena College adjusted the classroom schedule for all trades students in 2016, therefore allowing them to attend school full-time and also to work full-time. The CAMs students can work full-time at Boeing, making a starting salary of \$35,000 plus benefits. Additionally, Boeing offers all full-time employees the opportunity for full tuition reimbursement.

RESULTS

Currently, more than 35 Boeing employees are Helena College graduates. Kyle Beto, an alumnus of Helena College, began working as a machinist at Boeing, then Summit Aeronautics, immediately after he graduated. He has continued to progress in his career at Boeing now working as a Programmer in the Engineering Department.

This partnership has expanded beyond the college classroom. Helena College, Boeing, and the steering team of Helena WINS collaborate regularly to raise awareness about careers in skilled trades. Together they have hosted several events on the Helena College Airport Campus including a Manufacturing Night, tours for more than 300 eighth grade students, and hands-on engineering demonstrations in fifth-grade classrooms across Helena.

