



VIRGINIA AVIATION BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



VABA SELECTS VIRGINIA TECH STUDENT FOR SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

On Thursday, May 12, 2022, the VABA Scholarship Committee selected Lucy Waite as the recipient of the 2022 Charles J. Colgan Aviation and Aerospace Scholarship. After attending high school in Herndon, VA, Miss Waite entered Virginia Tech, College of Engineering, studying Aerospace Engineering. She completed a summer internship after her freshman year at Virginia Tech with the Federal Aviation Administration. Her supervisor commented, "Lucy jumped right into complex airport related initiatives and even led data analysis projects that have contributed to increased safety within the National Airspace System (NAS)." Having just completed her freshman year, Waite looks forward to furthering her studies and pursuing a career in aerospace.

While this year's pool of applicants was certainly impressive, Waite stood out as an exceptional candidate with her outstanding grades and letters of recommendation.

The VABA Scholarship Committee Chair Rich Anderson said; "We wish Miss Waite the very best in all of her future endeavors. We have no doubt that she will be successful in her pursuits."

The Charles J. Colgan Aviation and Aerospace Scholarship is awarded to a well deserving Virginia resident High School, Technical School Senior or College/University Undergraduate who is pursuing an aviation related career at an accredited institution located in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The scholarship honors former Senator Charles J. Colgan, a leader in the aviation and aerospace industry.



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BOEING ANNOUNCES HUB FOR MILITARY VETS AND NEW GLOBAL HEADQUARTERS

On June 13, Governor Glenn Youngkin was joined by Boeing CEO Dave Calhoun and Virginia Tech President Tim Sands to announce a public-private partnership uniting industry, government, and academia to drive talent development and increased labor force participation in Virginia.

The partnership builds upon Boeing's \$50 million, multi-year commitment that helped jump-start the development of Virginia Tech's Innovation Campus. This campus offers a new model for graduate education in computer science and engineering. The workforce development center in Alexandria is designed to help military veterans transition to civilian life and build careers in the technology and defense industries. Boeing became the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus' first foundational partner in 2021 to broaden its technology focus across Aerospace & Defense applications, bolstering Virginia as a global innovation hub. "Our military veterans need a big assist to get into civilian life, to pursue civilian livelihoods and to pursue tech degrees," Boeing CEO Dave Calhoun said at a news conference.

This public-private partnership announcement is great news for Virginia in addition to the Arlington, Virginia campus serving as the company's global headquarters. The aerospace and defense firm's employees in the region support various corporate functions and specialize in advanced airplane development and autonomous systems. In addition to designating Northern Virginia as its new headquarters, Boeing plans to develop a research and technology hub in the area to attract engineering and technical capabilities.

"We are excited to build on our foundation here in Northern Virginia. The region makes strategic sense for our global headquarters given its proximity to our customers and stakeholders, and its access to world-class engineering and technical talent," said Boeing President and Chief Executive Officer Dave Calhoun.

Governor Glenn Youngkin made the following statement on Boeing's announcement that the company will headquarter in Arlington, Virginia:

"Boeing is one of America's great pioneering businesses and we are thrilled the company has decided to headquarter in Virginia. The decision to call Virginia home shows that the Commonwealth is the premier location for aerospace companies. I look forward to working with Boeing to attract even more talent to Virginia especially given its reputation for engineering excellence. From day one, our goal has been to make Virginia the best place to live, work, and raise a family. I want to thank Boeing, its CEO Dave Calhoun, and its leadership for choosing Virginia."

Continue reading more about Boeing's move to Arlington [here](#) and the latest Boeing - Virginia Tech partnership [here](#).



LACK OF TRAINING PIPELINE FUELING THE PILOT, MECHANIC, AND TECHNICIAN LABOR SHORTAGE

Behind the scenes, mechanics are critical to the aviation industry. Without the necessary technicians and mechanics, aircraft are grounded.

Aircraft Mechanic Technician (AMT) labor shortages plague the industry. Education, training, certification, and licensing are all required to secure the estimated 14,400 openings for mechanics and technicians each year this next decade. Similar programs must address the on-the-job training and education necessary to fulfill these critical jobs to support regional air carriers, commercial airlines, and the military.

In addition to the shortage of mechanics and technicians, the nation is feeling the impact of a national pilot shortage. Fueled by early retirement and the required federal 1,500 in-flight hours necessary to be certified as a commercial pilot, this shortage has led to the dramatic decline in training to fill the pipeline.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, overall employment of airline and commercial pilots is projected to grow 13 percent from 2020 to 2030, with an estimated 14,500 openings for airline and commercial pilots each year. Boeing estimates that airlines around the world will need to recruit 635,000 pilots over the next two decades to fly a record number of planes and to replace the thousands expected retirements. This labor challenge is magnified by the current shortage of more than 1,600 pilots faced by the U.S. Air Force.

Air carriers have instituted programs to address the root causes of pilot shortages. Solutions must address both cost of training and opportunities to create the flying jobs necessary to build hours as pilot in command (PIC). A total of 1,500 hours are necessary to sit in the right seat for a regional air carrier.

Unfortunately, the national pilot and AMT labor shortage has only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pathway to Training New Pilots

The Experience Path

FLIGHT SCHOOL

Accessible, Affordable
Flight Schools - Public
and Private Alike

RIGHT SEAT

Still in training - first
officers and co-pilots
are right seat jobs.



AEROSPACE, AVIATION CAREER PATHS

Students Need
Hands on Learning
Opportunities, to be
Mentored and Attend
Industry Conferences



FLIGHT INSTRUCTORS

Parallel Pathways to Gain
Required Flight Hours & to
Expand Pool to Provide
Instruction to Students



LEFT SEAT

This is the final
stage- licensed
commercial pilots sit
in the left seat.

Pathway to Training Aircraft & Avionics Mechanics and Technicians

AVIATION MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN SCHOOL

Part 147 FAA-approved
aviation maintenance
technician school

FFA EXAMINATION

Within 2 years - applicants must
pass written, oral, and practical
exams that demonstrate the
required skills



EDUCATION

Maintenance technicians typically
earn a high school degree.
Avionics technicians may continue
to earn associate's or bachelor's
degree in engineering or a related
field, such as transportation.



ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

Working under supervision and
receiving on-the-job training to learn
the necessary skills and to be able to
pass the FAA exams is another
pathway to become certified



CERTIFICATIONS

- Certification for bodywork (Airframe mechanics, or "A")
- Certification for engine work (Powerplant mechanics, or "P")
- Certification for Airframe and Powerplant (A&P)

DRONEUP IS TAKING BUSINESSES AND THE DRONE INDUSTRY TO NEW HEIGHTS



For years, the drone market was in an emerging state and had yet to break into the mainstream. In 2016, the drone industry growth took flight when the Federal Aviation Administration granted hundreds of new exemptions for companies to operate drones in the U.S. through FAA Part 107.

These exemptions included several new uses in multiple industries, such as insurance, construction, and agriculture — each of which demonstrates the broad range of commercial drone applications.

Headquartered in Virginia Beach, DroneUp was founded in 2016 by Tom Walker, the company's CEO, who currently serves on the VABA Board of Directors. The drone service company is creating a world where drone flight is good for business, for people, and for the planet. With hubs across the U.S., the company provides delivery services across retail, food services, medical, and brand activation. DroneUp also provides professional and efficient aerial imaging and insights across the commercial real estate, construction, insurance, maritime, infrastructure & utilities, and security industries.

DroneUp quickly moved from small business start-up to a global leader, recently receiving a significant investment from the #1 retailer in the world, Walmart, Inc. As Walmart continues to expand its delivery operations, it is proud to partner with DroneUp to offer customers multiple options that help them save time and money. One solution Walmart has been working on over the last year is delivery via drone. On May 24, the retailer announced it will be expanding its DroneUp delivery network to 34 sites by the end the year, providing the potential to reach 4 million U.S. households across six states – Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Texas, Utah and Virginia. This provides the ability to deliver over 1 million packages by drone in a year.

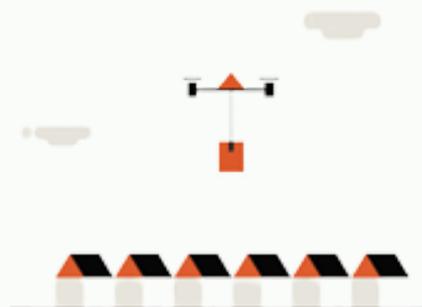
How does drone delivery work for Walmart? Customers will be able to order from tens of thousands of eligible items for delivery by air in as little as thirty minutes. For a delivery fee of \$3.99, customers can order items totaling up to 10 pounds. As Walmart and DroneUp put it, “if it fits safely it flies”.

In addition, a significant part of Walmart's drone delivery hub expansion is offering additional drone services through the hubs.

As reported to *DroneLife*, Tom Walker stated, “We'll be able to deploy a drone for aerial inspection, or rapidly deploy drones for a first responder or public safety support in a way that hasn't been available before. These hubs will be manned and ready to go, with the ability to get a drone in the air in a minute.”

Perhaps most importantly for the drone industry, Walker says “These hubs will have a role in demonstrating that drones are good for the communities in which they reside and unleash the potential to demonstrate the ability to manage and operate “at scale.”

DroneUp is truly taking businesses and the drone industry to new heights.



LEADERS IN VIRGINIA AVIATION

GREG CAMPBELL

*Director of Virginia
Department of Aviation*



Governor Glenn Youngkin appointed Greg Campbell as the Director of the Virginia Department of Aviation (DOAV) in December of 2021. Campbell served as Executive Director of the Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport (SHD) since 1992. He is a certified member of the American Association of Airport Executives and a past president of the Virginia Airport Operators' Council.

"I am excited to be the next director of the Department of Aviation," Campbell said. "I have worked closely with the professional staff there for more than 30 years, and I look forward to leading them in the mission to meet the transportation needs of Virginians; grow local communities through economic development; serve the 66 public-use airports across the state; assist in workforce development; and support the \$22.9 billion aviation industry in the Commonwealth."

As SHD's Executive Director, Campbell promoted commercial air service for the Shenandoah Valley, led the Airport Commission's 25 employees, and oversaw all aspects of business and air service development, marketing, operations, public safety, finance, planning and capital improvements.

Greg Campbell has passionately served his community over the years. He is a past president of the Greater Augusta Regional Chamber of Commerce; former chairman of the Shenandoah Valley Partnership; and recently served as a board member on Go Virginia Region 8. Campbell was named Airport Manager of the Year in 1996; was selected as Aviation Person of the Year in 2012; and was awarded the James Madison University Public Servant Award in 2013. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Bridgewater College.

RANDY BURDETTE

*Virginia Aviation Board
Chairman*



Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin announced that he has named Randy Burdette as the Chairman of the Virginia Aviation Board.

Members of the Virginia Aviation Board are appointed by the Governor to represent the seven defined geographic areas of the Commonwealth. The Board is responsible for publicizing and monitoring policies and programs of the Department, recommending regulations it deems are necessary to promote and develop safe aviation practices, and allocating funds to localities for aviation development.

Burdette was inducted into the Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame in November. Normally such an honor is the capstone of a career. Governor Youngkin obviously recognizes that his talents may lead to even greater achievements ahead.

Upon graduation from college Randy Burdette was commissioned in the United States Army as a 2nd Lieutenant. Burdette had many significant achievements during his 26-year Army career. Upon retirement from the Army in 2002, he served on the Board of Directors of the Stafford Regional Airport, Stafford, VA.

In 2004 Burdette was appointed by Governor Mark Warner as the Executive Director of Virginia Department of Aviation (DOAV). He was successfully reappointed by subsequent governors - Governors Tim Kaine, Bob McDonnell, and Terry McAuliffe. Randy Burdette has been a lifelong pilot. Aside from his Army aviation career he has owned and flown a Cessna 172, two Cessna 206's, a Cardinal RG, and currently a Cessna 182. Additionally, he has owned and flown a Safari helicopter. He is qualified and holds certifications as a Private Pilot (VFR and IFR), Commercial, Helicopter, Single Engine, Multi-Engine, and Seaplane pilot.

VABA SOARING SUCCESSES

Throughout the year the VABA continues to be the voice for Virginia aviation business through advocacy, education, research, business promotion, and networking.



Legislative Successes

The VABA led industry efforts to create and sustain the Aviation Parts and Supplies Tax Credit.

In 2017 and 2018, the VABA led the lobbying effort to statutorily create the aviation parts and supplies tax credit making aircraft and unmanned aerial aircraft maintenance and repair facilities competitive with 32 other states, including all surrounding states that provide the credit. Since adoption, Virginia maintenance facilities have consistently grown and have been awarded contracts previously unavailable with substantial growth in the avionics market. Success in the Commonwealth has attributed to both capital investment in expansion of existing facilities and job growth throughout the Commonwealth.

The VABA also led the effort to extend the sunset provision on the Aviation Parts and Supplies Tax Credit to 2025, when the General Assembly will review the effectiveness of all tax credits available to business.

The aviation parts and supplies tax credit was scheduled to sunset on July 1, 2022. The VABA led the lobbying effort to extend the credit and make it a permanent part of Virginia law when the tax credit was under attack by the Joint Legislative Audit Review Commission. After much effort, the VABA successfully fought off this effort, maintaining the credit for all aircraft over 2,400 pounds gross takeoff weight. During the next three years the VABA will work with industry and state leaders to make the tax credit a permanent part of the economic toolbox for industry growth in Virginia.

Without our efforts, the tax credit would have expired, leading to aviation work going back to other states.



VABA SOARING SUCCESSES CONT'D...

Aviation Workforce Development Successes

The VABA leads industry efforts on Aviation Workforce Development.

Since the Joint Commission on Technology and Science (JCOTS) submitted its 2018 study on aviation and aerospace in Virginia, the VABA has been leading efforts to push aerospace education STEM programming and advanced degree programs in K-12 throughout Virginia school systems. The JCOTS study identified five areas for the Commonwealth to focus on that includes (1) a scholarship program to take recipients through pilot ground school training; (2) a portal to provide a consolidated database on aviation training materials, schools, programs available to all constituencies; (3) coordinated intern management programs to connect Virginia students interested in an aviation related internship with Virginia businesses offering internships; (4) creation of the Virginia Aviation Scholars Program to provide education, training and career awareness for Virginia high school students; and (5) the creation of an aviation-focused session for the Building Leaders Advancing Science and Technology (BLAST) program offering immersive three-day residential program for 9th and 10th grade students at Virginia institutions of Higher Education.

In addition to the above programs, in conjunction with the Virginia Space Grant Consortium (VSGC), the VABA has helped to facilitate funding for the PATHWAYS Flight Academy, managed by the VSGC and expansion of existing internship programs also managed by VSGC.

During this past legislative session, the VABA supported efforts to expand Aircraft Maintenance Technician Training (AMT) programs at Danville Community College in partnership with Averett University Aviation and Aerospace program. Additional funding was also provided to the Denbigh High School Aerospace Education Academy in Newport News.



Industry Support Successes

With the occurrence of the COVID-19 pandemic in the late winter of 2020, the VABA communicated with the Office of the Governor to provide information to ensure that policies impacting aviation operations were managed in a manner that fully protected public health and safety without unnecessarily shuttering critical infrastructure operations. Such efforts were successful in maintaining operational and open flight schools and not deterring critical commercial aviation.

To assist in the development of aviation in Virginia and nationally, the VABA has actively partnered with Dynamic Aviation, NEXTGEN Aviators, the United States Air Force Auxiliary, Civil Air Patrol, the Virginia Department of Aviation, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, and the National Business Aviation Association.

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Greg Campbell - Virginia Department of Aviation
Shane Combs - Dynamic Aviation | NextGen
John Earl - Averett University Aviation Services
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Jim Hopkins - Signature Flight Support
Donna Lawson - NASA Langley Research Center (Retired)
George Snyder - GHS Aviation Group
Scott Strimple - VAUS
Tom Walker - DroneUp
Todd Yeatts - Boeing Company

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