

Economic Impact Working Group

Texas AAM Committee

Meeting #1, February 21, 2024

Agenda

- Opening remarks (Lead)
- Housekeeping (TXST)
 - File sharing
 - Working group operations
 - Committee overarching goal
- Review relevant research (TXST)
- Discuss workforce education recommendation
- Closing remarks (Lead)

Housekeeping

File Sharing

- 6 Texas AAM Committee SharePoint folders
 - General (additions reserved for Chair, Vice Chair, and TXST team)
 - Community Integration
 - Economic Impact
 - Funding
 - Infrastructure
 - Public Good and Safety Use-Cases
- Announcement email with a SharePoint link sent for any addition
- Email us at innovate@txstate.edu for questions about file access

Working Group Operations

- You can vote on final recommendations if
 - You are a full committee member AND
 - You attend 3 out of 5 working group meetings
- Email group lead Cameron Walker (cwalker@permianbasinmpo.com) with research requests and they will forward requests to TxDOT and TXST

Topics

Overarching goal:

Enhance Texas' leadership in AAM by **developing recommendations for the Texas Legislature** to accelerate and support the community integration and use of AAM (i.e., both crewed and uncrewed aircraft) in the State of Texas.

- Manufacturing, workforce development, training

Relevant Research

Estimated AAM Workforce Needs Nationwide

- 60,000 AAM pilots needed by 2028
- 280,000 jobs in AAM industry by 2035

- 368,604 remote pilots certified by FAA at the end of 2023
- Estimated 50% increase in drone operator need over the next 5 years

UAS Education Options

- **Certification and Training Programs**

- Courses last anywhere from 2 days to 15 weeks
- Open to the public
- Prepare for FAA Part 107 (drone operator) knowledge test
- Trusted Operator™ training provides a certification beyond FAA Part 107
- Includes UAS skill advancement for trained professionals

- **University Programs**

- Much less common
- Provide preparation for FAA Part 107 knowledge test
- Curriculum focused on operations, regulations, technology
- Encourage concentration on GIS, Agriculture, Engineering, Computer Science
- UAS Concentration - Aviation Science, Engineering Science, Aerospace Engineering

16 UAS Education Programs in Texas

- 10 UAS training/test prep programs
 - Texas Southmost College
 - Midland College
 - San Jacinto College
 - Texas State Technical College
 - Houston Community College
 - Lone Star College
 - Collin College
 - Del Mar College
 - South Plains College
 - Temple College
- 3 UAS Associates/ Certificate programs
 - Texas A&M – Corpus Christi
 - UT Arlington
 - Blinn College
- 2 UAS concentration options for Aviation Science/Engineering Science majors
 - Texas Southern
 - St. Mary's University
- 1 UAS Degree Program - offers Electronics (design and manufacturing) concentration and Technician concentration
 - LeTourneau University

Texas UAS Program Search

University	Program Offered	Course Length
Texas Southmost College	Drone Pilot Training	N/A
San Jacinto College	Drone Pilot Training	2-day
Midland College	Drone Pilot Training	18-hour
Houston Community College	UAS Tech Training	128-hour
Collin College	FAA Part 107 Knowledge Test Prep Course	2-week
Temple College	Remote Drone Pilot Certification Prep Course	4-week
Del Mar College	FAA Part 107 Knowledge Test Online Prep Course	8-week
Lone Star College	Drone Training Fast Track Course	8-hour
South Plains College	Drone Pilot Licensing Course	15-week

Texas UAS Program Search

University	Program Offered	Program Type
Texas A&M - Corpus Christi	UAS Applications Certificate	Certificate
Texas State Technical College	UAV Pilot Training	Certificate
UT Arlington	Undergraduate Certificate in Unmanned Vehicle Systems	Certificate
Blinn College	Drone Technician Associates Degree	Associates
St. Mary's University	UAS Concentration	Concentration
Texas Southern	UAS Concentration	Concentration
LeTourneau University	UAS Degree	Bachelors

Where is the Biggest Gap in Trained Employees?

- Need education for real estate and development industry innovators
- Need university level degrees
- Pilot training (immediate)
- Operator and maintenance workforce (lowest priority)
- Increase funding for engineering and related programs (immediate)
- Urban planning and community development efforts

- For recommendations: compile reports of other states' investments and their economic impact

Closing Remarks / Next meeting

Next Meeting Dates

Economic Impact Meeting 2: **March 20**, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Full Committee Meeting: **March 27**, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm