



Defense Manufacturing Community Support Program Success Story: Utah Aerospace Pathways Program Graduates 70 Students

The Defense Manufacturing Community Support Program (DMCSP) 2020 grant to Utah, known as the Utah Defense Manufacturing Community (UDMC), under Task 1.1 Workforce, restored funding for Utah Aerospace Pathways program after the State cut the budget due to COVID. In a ceremony at the State Capitol, 70 high school students were presented certificates of completion and all students received job offers from Utah's aerospace and defense companies. At the graduation ceremony, Col. Peter Feng, Vice Commander, 75th Air Base Wing, Hill Air Force Base, provided an inspirational address to the graduates focusing on the importance of supporting the mission of the Department of Defense to protect the United States through innovation, which can be realized by this graduating class.

The Utah Aerospace Pathways program was created as a response to industry, and in alignment with growing Utah DoD installations emerging missions, which provides Utah students the opportunity to graduate high school with a certificate in aerospace manufacturing and begin an aerospace manufacturing career. This innovative program has brought industry, education, and government together in an unprecedented collaboration. Students take part in externships where they engage in hands-on training with industry experts helping to fill the talent pipeline in the defense industrial base. The program is managed by the Utah System of Higher Education.

The Defense Manufacturing Community Support Program launched in 2020 when the Department of Defense officially designated Utah as the first cohort of Defense Manufacturing Communities. Along with the designation came DoD program funds to enable integration and expansion of successful defense manufacturing support programs and introduction of new offerings to support and grow Utah's defense manufacturing industry and strengthen the industrial base. The UDMC is led by the Utah Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity and managed by the Utah Advanced Materials & Manufacturing Initiative (UAMMI).

