



# MID-ATLANTIC OPPORTUNITY PARK

Pennsylvania's Intermodal Business Center

## Workforce Pipeline Fact Sheet

A snapshot of Western Pennsylvania's aviation support industry and regional talent

**Overview:** Built as a nearly 130-acre extension to the Johnstown-Cambria County Airport (JST), **The Mid-Atlantic Opportunity Park** will be anchored by a 100,000-square-foot aviation maintenance, repair and overhaul facility, with additional retail space for related tenants such as parts suppliers, distribution facilities, paint shops and more. Below is a snapshot of the aviation-related workforce and talent pipeline that will support The Opportunity Park's workforce pipeline for decades to come.

**Industry:** According to FAA data, Pennsylvania is home to **89 aviation repair stations, 34 FAA-approved pilot schools, 6,232 student pilots** and **3,053 flight instructors**.

Across the runway from The Opportunity Park, JST is serviced by Cambrian Hills Development Group-affiliated fixed base operator, Nulton Aviation Services, which also operates charter services and **a university-sponsored pilot training program on-site**.

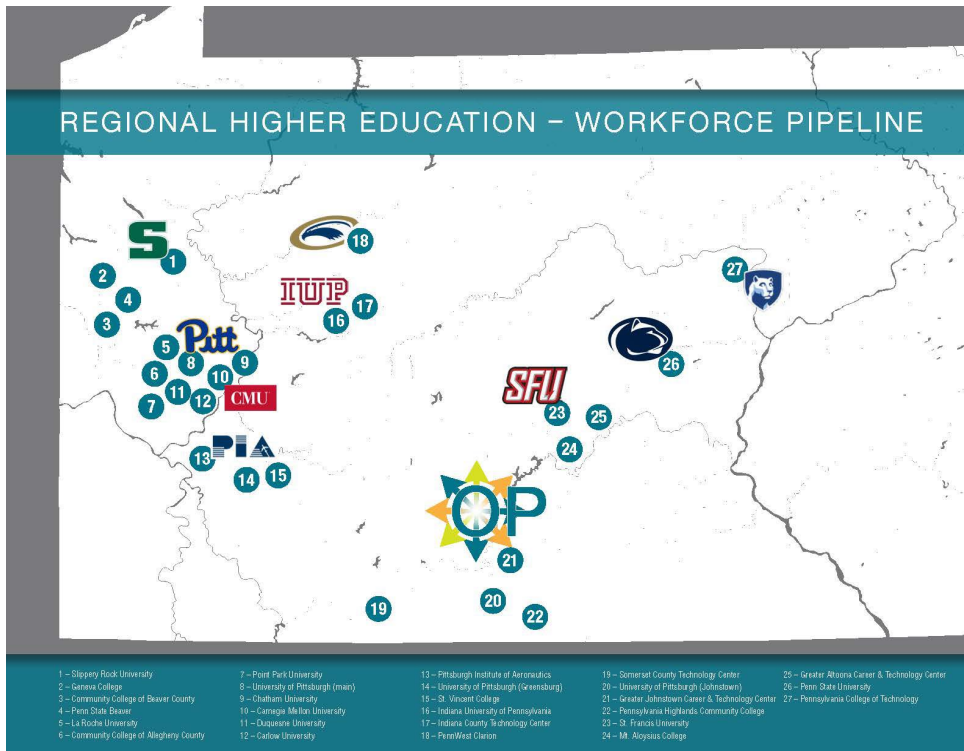
Cambrian Hills Development Group is invested in building opportunities for the aviation industry in Pennsylvania and is developing a new aviation program in conjunction with the Cambria County Airport Authority, as well as a new training program and facility at Johnstown Airport with Saint Francis University and SkyWest Airlines.

Other notes about the rapidly growing aviation industry, according to [recent data obtained from the Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association](#), include:

- Roughly 13,500 commercial airline pilots were hired in 2022, making 2022 the best year on record for pilot hiring;
- Although hiring numbers are nearly 2.5 times higher than the industry has ever seen, those numbers still fall nearly 5,000 pilots short of the U.S Department of Labor's projected need for the industry to hire 18,100 pilots to offset annual airline pilot attrition, meaning more jobs are out there for the taking;
- [JSfirm.com](#), a free online resource for aviation job seekers and employers, has seen an 11.5-percent increase in job postings in the past month, along with a nearly 40-percent increase in employer engagement and **more than a 66-percent increase in job searches** year to date; and,
- Boeing's latest Pilot and Technician Outlook estimates "602,000 new pilots, 610,000 new maintenance technicians, and 899,000 new cabin crew members will be needed to fly and maintain the global commercial fleet over the next 20 years.

**Talent:** The commonwealth has 122 public-use airports connecting Pennsylvania businesses and residents to the national and global economy. Nearly 304,500 total jobs can be traced to the impacts of Pennsylvania's system of airports. These employees receive over \$9.2 billion in payroll and generate nearly \$23.6 billion in total economic activity.

In addition to providing a means of travel, Pennsylvania's airports also facilitate necessary and sometimes critical services such as air cargo and freight, flight training, police and law enforcement, emergency medical services, firefighting, and disaster and emergency response, among others. Airports serve as catalysts for activity and contribute significant economic, social, health and safety benefits, the impacts of which are immeasurable.



*A map highlighting surrounding PA universities in relation to The Opportunity Park (OP).*

Pennsylvania is also home to numerous aviation mechanic training institutions, such as Aviation Institute of Maintenance, Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics and Pennsylvania College of Technology.

In total, **the region surrounding The Opportunity Park has more than 212,140 students enrolled in higher education**, flanked by the anchor institutions of The University of Pittsburgh and Penn State University.

Cambrian Hills Development Group is also working to infuse aviation curricula into the area's public school system, which, through independent research, count **among the top third of public high schools in the state.**

Additionally, the region has made great strides in bolstering its talent and workforce pipelines. In 2022, the nearby Saint Francis University expanded on its existing relationship with Nulton Aviation Flight Academy to **provide students access to SkyWest's Elite Pilot Pathway and Aviation Maintenance Training Pathway programs**, helping to build on an already impressive talent foundation and ensuring the regional aviation industry becomes even more successful and sustainable.

