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### Air museum establishes memorial scholarship for alumna

The Mid-Atlantic Air Museum has established a scholarship honoring the late Brenda E. Saylor, a 1996 graduate of Pennsylvania College of Technology.

Saylor, who died in May 2022, earned an Associate of Applied Science in aviation technology, gaining her Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) certification from the Federal Aviation Administration at the age of 46. She had become a licensed pilot in 1991 and, for 29 years, owned a 1940 Boeing Stearman biplane, which was a World War II primary training aircraft.

After graduation, Saylor, originally of New Park, PA, became a volunteer at the Reading-based Mid-Atlantic Air Museum. In 1998, the museum hired her to become its principal aircraft mechanic and restoration specialist, a position she held until her death earlier this year.

Feeling a great loss, the museum wanted to do something to serve as a long-lasting tribute to Saylor, museum President Russell A. Strine said. Since Penn College had been one of Saylor's passions, the museum contacted the college about establishing a scholarship in her honor.

To read more about this scholarship, view the complete article on PCToday.



### Aviation student awarded international helicopter scholarship

A Pennsylvania College of Technology student was among only seven selected worldwide to receive a Bill Sanderson Aviation Maintenance Technology Scholarship from Helicopter Association International's Technical Committee.

Kevin Pradel, a recent graduate in the four-year aviation maintenance technology major, was awarded a second-place scholarship that provides a tuition waiver for a helicopter manufacturer training school and a stipend to offset expenses. Pradel, of Belleville, NJ, will attend the Leonardo AW139 helicopter factory school in Philadelphia.

During the college's 2022 spring break, Pradel and junior Shiv Patel, of Union, NJ, a junior in the same baccalaureate major, attended the HAI Heli-Expo in Dallas, TX. The event is the world's largest vertical aviation conference and trade show, attracting more than 13,000 attendees from 72 countries.

Pradel joins a distinguished list of Penn College students honored by HAI over the past 18 years; the total amount of association scholarships awarded to those students exceeds \$200,000. Pradel has since graduated and is employed in a large corporate flight department.



# AVIATION NEWS

WINTER 2023

### Aviation student earns gold medal at SkillsUSA nationals

Curtiss Gay, of Tunkannock placed first in the aviation maintenance category during the 58th annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference, held last summer in Atlanta. Gay was one of two Penn College students earning gold medals. The other winner was Michael Shoemaker, of Orefield, who competed in Welding.

Gay earned the right to participate in the national competition by earning first place in the state competition held at Penn College. "I'm extremely proud of how the students competed and how we finished," said James N. Colton II, assistant professor of welding and SkillsUSA adviser, who accompanied the Penn College contingent to the conference. "It was a great week, and I'm glad the national competition was able to happen again this year after two years away because of COVID."



Penn College alumnus Curtiss R. Gay (back row, center) stands with other aviation maintenance technology medalists after placing first in that category at the SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference, held June 20-24, 2022 in Atlanta. Gay, of Tunkannock, earned an aviation maintenance technician certificate in May.

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### Aviation Curriculum Revision showing results

Last May, two Pennsylvania College of Technology students were the first to take the National Center for Aerospace & Transportation Technologies/ASTM International examinations at the college's Lumley Aviation Center, obtaining certifications that reflect recent adjustments to the college's four-year aviation maintenance technology major to more closely align with industry standards.

Teagan M. Low, a senior from Richmond, VT, and Kevin Pradel, of Bloomfield, NJ, who graduated May 14, were the first two students to take the NCATT/ASTM examinations under the college's recent authorization to administer the testing on-site. (Prior to receipt of that permission, students needed to search for an external facility authorized to conduct the testing.)

Both were successful, earning the basic certification (Aircraft Electronics Technician), the Radio Communication systems endorsement, and the Dependent Navigation Systems endorsement. Pradel went on to pass an additional test, by which he earned the Autonomous Navigation Systems endorsement.

NCATT recently developed educational standards and testing methods for avionics technicians – Penn College was one of the institutions that helped develop both the organization and the standards – and ASTM International has established a wide range of standards for everything from aviation to textiles.



Teagan Low (l) and Kevin Pradel

### Aviation alum showcased among trade group's '40 under 40

Last August, a Penn College graduate is included on AviationPros.com's list of 40 aircraft maintenance professionals under age 40, characterized as "some of the best, brightest and hardest-working young people of the industry." Patrick J. Reed, a flight technician with Equus Capital, earned an associate's degree in aviation technology from the college in 2003 and holds two master technician certificates. "I just had a really blessed career, a lot of really good opportunities, and it's been an awesome journey so far," said Reed, who is in line to become director of maintenance when the current director retires. "It's such an interesting career – every day is something different."

### Aviation Camps proving Successful

During the summer of 2022, Penn College held two camps at Lumley Aviation Center. The first was for high school age students, and the second was an externship for high school teachers and counselors. Thanks to an FAA grant funding the Aviation Workforce Success Project (AWSP), both camps were free of charge. There were also bonuses for both students and teachers attending the camps. Student attendees earned a \$500 per semester renewable scholarship. Teachers integrating the material learned in the classroom activities at their home school earned a cash stipend.

The grant also funded mini-camps and will continue through the summer of 2023.

Last fall, a video made of a student and his family starting the engines on the college's Boeing 727 went viral on YouTube, garnering over 201,000 views.

