

July 18, 2019

Chairman Mahaney, members of the Board of Trustees, distinguished guests:

I have come to speak on behalf of the Aviation Maintenance Technology (AMT) program. My name is Mark Matteson, and I have been a member of the faculty since 2006, currently at the rank of Associate Professor.

The current Aviation Maintenance Technology (AMT) program began in 1990, after two years of preparation, certification by the FAA, and \$1.5M in grant monies from the state of Michigan. The AMT program was vital to the Upper Peninsula, the state, and the nation for three reasons:

1. A shortage of qualified aircraft maintenance professionals throughout the United States
2. A forecasted need to provide civilian certifications for military aviation maintenance personnel separating from the armed forces
3. A displaced workforce due to the downturn in employment in the mining industry

NMU provided opportunities for local and out of state students to receive training in aviation maintenance by creating its Aviation Maintenance Technician School and receiving FAA certificate number NSBT012K. NMU's school is one of less than 170 in the United States, one of less than 35 affiliated with a four-year university, and the only school within a 230-mile radius of Marquette.

Twenty-nine (29) years later, two of the three reasons for the AMT program being created are still valid; the third reason shows how successful the program has been:

1. Boeing has forecasted a shortage of 189,000 new technicians over the next 20 years
2. Envoy has approached NMU to provide gap training and testing for military aviation maintenance personnel to provide a pathway to their FAA certification(s)
3. In 2015 (the SRA target year), the Lake Superior Community Partnership identified the Envoy Airlines facility at the KI Sawyer airport as the seventh largest private employer in Marquette County

The Academic Task Force identified the AMT program as a Quintile 4 program – recommend transformation with revised resources as appropriate. However, the Implementation Task Force has recommended the program for phase out (Quintile 5). I will admit that the AMT program cost NMU \$13 in 2015, but I didn't think that to be a serious fiscal issue.

Perhaps the AMT program doesn't serve the mission and core values of the institution:

- The program has always been a part of the Jacobetti Complex, which NMU has received \$28.6M from the state for renovations
- The program is a STEM program
- The Michigan Launch Initiative's list of candidate airports has only one - KI Sawyer – with aviation and engineering programs close by
- The College of Technology and Occupational Sciences has launched a Manufacturing Production Technician diploma program. Enstrom manufactures helicopters in Menominee, Michigan, several AMT alumni have launched their aviation careers there.

I respectfully request that the Board of Trustees take a second look at senior leadership's decision to phase out the AMT program. I will be available should you need more information.