



Butler Tech to Establish Aviation Education Hangar with Assistance from JobsOhio

*In partnership with REDI Cincinnati and City of Middletown,
new facility to address demand for aviation professionals*

Middletown, Ohio – July 30, 2024 – Butler Tech and the City of Middletown today announced the receipt of a \$1 million grant from the JobsOhio Ohio Site Inventory Program (OSIP) in partnership with REDI Cincinnati, marking an essential funding piece needed to launch the Butler Tech Aviation Education Hangar project. This grant allows the project to move directly from preparation to construction at the Middletown Regional Airport (MWO), ensuring an immediate start and a significant impact on the workforce pipeline for the aviation industry.

“With the increase in the need for aviation professionals, the Butler Tech Aviation Education Hangar creates a dynamic opportunity for the Middletown Airport to support the industry and increase opportunities for education in the aviation space,” said JobsOhio President and CEO, J.P. Nauseef. “The Middletown Airport’s location between the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky and Dayton International airports, along with its proximity to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, makes it ideally situated to bring industry leaders and students together to prepare the future aviation workforce.”

The \$15 million Butler Tech Aviation Education Hangar at Middletown Airport represents a major step forward in addressing the growing demand for aviation professionals in the area. The 28,000-square-foot facility will house classes and state-of-the-art labs dedicated to aviation skills such as aviation maintenance, engineering, and private pilot, and unmanned aircraft systems. Middletown Airport is an active airfield and an ideal location for training future aviation mechanics, supporting FBO operations for numerous aircraft annually, including 66 T-Hangar units, two 50-foot by 50-foot aircraft hangar units, a 24,000 square foot maintenance hangar, and 39,000 square feet of corporate/community hangar space.

"The investment at the Middletown Regional Airport represents an innovative approach to strengthening our region's aviation corridor with a talent pipeline, allowing educators to train students using a relevant curriculum through hands-on learning labs," said Kimm Lauterbach, president and CEO of REDI Cincinnati. "This commitment supports Butler Tech's dedication to producing students who are both career-ready and prepared for college."

Adding to this momentum, Butler Tech recently received approval from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for the Air Frame and Power certification, further solidifying Butler Tech's impact in providing top-tier aviation education and training to students in the local area.

"This OSIP grant is a crucial piece of the puzzle, allowing Butler Tech and our partners to begin immediate construction," said Jon Graft, superintendent/CEO of Butler Tech. "With all this funding secured and the recent FAA approval for the Air Frame and Power certification, we can now transform

the site into a hub of aviation education, providing students with hands-on learning opportunities and preparing them for high-demand careers in the aviation industry."

The OSIP grant is pivotal, covering the critical initial phases of the project, including the demolition of existing structures, comprehensive site work, and the development of essential infrastructure. This final piece of funding means that the project is ready to transition seamlessly from preparation to construction, with an anticipated groundbreaking in October of 2024.

"The City of Middletown is delighted to partner with Butler Tech to expand its presence at Middletown Regional Airport," said Nathan Cahall, interim city manager. "The project represents a critical investment in education and workforce development for a strategically important business sector for the region and the entire state. With the assistance of JobsOhio, the stage is set for MWO to emerge as a catalyst for workforce development and economic growth for years to come."

The unique partnerships between Butler Tech, REDI Cincinnati, JobsOhio, and the City of Middletown, with the support of the Butler County Commissioners, highlight the importance of this initiative. These collaborations underscore the impact this project will have on students and the community, providing invaluable education and job opportunities.

Total Project Cost: \$15 million

Contributions:

- **Butler County Commissioners Contribution:** \$7 million
- **City of Middletown Contribution:** \$500,000
- **JobsOhio Site Inventory Program Contribution:** \$1 million
- **Butler Tech Contribution:** \$6.5 million

About Butler Tech

Butler Tech is one of the largest career technical schools in Ohio. Its passionate educators are on a shared mission of transforming lives to make our students career-ready and college-prepared. We serve more than 18,000 high school and adult education students daily on Butler Tech's five campuses and in classrooms within 11 associate school districts. The Butler Tech staff strives to create an educational environment with equity, access, inclusion, and diversity through student voice and choice. Offering a variety of programs from healthcare and public safety to manufacturing and commercial trucking, Butler Tech provides a purpose for every passion.

About the City of Middletown

Middletown is a vibrant city of more than 50,000 residents located in Butler and Warren Counties between the cities of Cincinnati and Dayton. Incorporated in 1833, Middletown is known for its dynamic culture, growing economy, and storied history in manufacturing. Designated an All-America City, Middletown is home to one of the most active regional airports in the State of Ohio at the Middletown Municipal Airport. Learn more about Middletown at cityofmiddletown.org.

About JobsOhio

[JobsOhio](#), Ohio's private nonprofit economic development corporation, enhances company growth and personnel development through business attraction, retention, and expansion across ten competitive industry sectors. With a team of seasoned professionals, JobsOhio utilizes a comprehensive network to foster talent production in targeted industries and attract talent through [Find Your Ohio](#). Collaborating with seven regional partners, including [Dayton Development Coalition](#), [Lake to River Economic Development](#), [Ohio Southeast Economic Development](#), [One Columbus](#), [REDI Cincinnati](#), [Regional Growth Partnership](#), and [Team NEO](#), JobsOhio delivers world-class customer service to provide companies with a competitive advantage. Learn more at www.jobsohio.com. Follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

About REDI Cincinnati

The Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Cincinnati is the first point-of-contact for companies locating or growing in the 15-county region at the heart of southwest Ohio, northern Kentucky, and southeast Indiana. REDI Cincinnati is supported by top business leaders and community partners and staffed by a team of economic development experts who are uniting the Cincinnati region to compete globally. The future is bright, and we're building it, right now. Join us at REDICincinnati.com.

NEWS RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

AJ Huff

513-594-6875

huffa@butlertech.org