

## Economic district commemorates Atlantic Cape Community College air traffic program

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By JENNIFER BOGDAN Staff Writer

The South Jersey Economic Development District will present a plaque today to Atlantic Cape Community College in commemoration of the SJEDD's investment in the college's air traffic control associate degree program.

SJEDD provided more than \$280,000 in federal funding to help purchase an air traffic control tower simulation system for the college.

The organization is also working with Atlantic Cape on a \$2 million grant that will be used toward the construction of an Aviation Institute at the college.

"The creation of Atlantic Cape's Aviation Institute is an integral part of the expansion of the aviation industry in southern New Jersey and will help provide rewarding career opportunities for our youth," SJEDD Executive Director Gordon Dahl said.

Atlantic Cape developed the air traffic control program to tie in with the new NextGen Aviation Research and Technology Park soon to be constructed in Egg Harbor Township and to meet a projected need for air traffic controllers due to retirements.

The U.S. Department of Labor estimates about 3,400 new air traffic controllers will be needed between 2008 and 2018.

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