



AOPA FOUNDATION
**HIGH SCHOOL AVIATION
STEM SYMPOSIUM**

THE SYMPOSIUM EXPERIENCE: **REAL IMPACT, REAL SUCCESS**



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I may have one of the more impactful stories regarding the annual AOPA Foundation High School Aviation STEM Symposium.

The 2024 symposium featured a session from Choose Aerospace, which laid out a strategy to address the 30% shortfall in the Aviation Maintenance career field. Their model is to administer a two-year curriculum to prepare high school students for the Aviation Maintenance General FAA exam.

A large number of students at my school requested more information about Aviation Maintenance, but I was unable to point them to any resources. Based on Choose Aerospace's model, I am starting this program at West Orange High School in the fall of 2025.

I have already received approval from my district and my principal. I have applied for a grant from the JetBlue Foundation. I expected maybe 8-10 students, but my initial course requests are over 25 students! We will be the first school in Florida to partner with Choose Aerospace and will serve as a model for other schools across the county and state.

