The latest addition to Goodyear’s fleet of airships stopped by Penn College’s Lumley Aviation Center in September, while traveling through the area to aid television coverage of the Penn State/Ohio State football game. Students were allowed into the cockpit of the three month old Wingfoot Three in small groups. Goodyear pilots and maintenance technicians answered their questions about equipment and operations. Also on hand was a factory representative from Zeppelin, the dirigible’s German manufacturer, who was there to gather test data during the flights.

Aviation Students Visited by Goodyear’s Newest Blimp

The Wingfoot airships differ from earlier blimps, because they are semi-rigid. Earlier Goodyear blimps were not rigid. This airship is over 246 ft. long, and is powered by three 200 HP Lycoming engines. Each engine is connected to a system which is able to vector the thrust, which means the propeller assembly can be rotated to aid in control. The 2,626 pound gondola can carry up to 14 people at speeds up to 73 miles an hour.

view inside for more aviation news
In June of 2018, longtime Pennsylvania College of Technology partner Lycoming Engines has donated 15 aircraft engines to be used for instructional purposes in the college's aviation majors. The donation, valued at $317,500, will benefit students enrolled in the aviation maintenance technology bachelor's degree, the aviation technology associate degree and the aviation maintenance certificate major.

Over 100 Penn College alumni are employed by Lycoming Engines, a leading piston-engine producer for the general aviation industry that employs approximately 400 people. The company sponsors three scholarships annually for Penn College aviation students and also provides tool donations to the college's Baja SAE Club, which participates annually in off-road vehicle competitions nationwide.

Lycoming Engines is also a member of the college's Visionary Society, which recognizes lifetime gifts totaling $100,000 to $499,999. Lycoming Engines employees serve as advisory committee members at Penn College and host students on factory tours and career-related activities. The college also is designated as the authorized training center to offer hands-on Lycoming Piston Engine Service School training annually for more than 200 attendees from around the world.

Gift From Lycoming Engines Boosts College’s Aviation Instruction

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Aviation Students Awarded International Helicopter Scholarships

In March 2018, two Pennsylvania College of Technology students were among only seven selected to receive a Bill Sanderson Aviation Maintenance Technology Scholarship from Helicopter Association International's Technical Committee.

Samuel J. Pham, of Camp Hill, and Christopher J. Carreiro, of Lyndhurst, New Jersey, juniors in the college's four-year aviation maintenance technology major, were awarded first- and second-place scholarships, respectively, that provide a tuition waiver for a helicopter manufacturer training school and a stipend to offset expenses.

Pham attended the Airbus EC-145 helicopter factory school and Carreiro attended the Leonardo A139 helicopter factory school. They join 13 other Penn College students honored by HAI over the past 14 years; total scholarship amounts awarded to those students by the committee exceed $100,000.

Also in March, Pham and five other Penn College aviation students – along with aviation instructor William F. Stepp III – attended the HAI Heli-Expo in Las Vegas.

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Take a Tour

The faculty and staff at Pennsylvania College of Technology’s Kathryn Wentzel Lumley Aviation Center are proud of their facility and would like to share it with you. The Aviation Center was completed in 1993, replacing a structure that dated to pre-WWII days. The facility sits on a multi-acre site and boasts 50,000 square feet of space – 11,000 square feet of which is used in the main hangar. In addition, two small structures sit to the west of the Aviation Center and serve as engine-demonstration cells that the students may use to safely start and operate recently overhauled engines. If you would like a tour of the facility, contact the Admissions Office at 800-367-9222. You also may email tinman@pct.edu.