

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA

Economic Development



Connecting the intellectual resources of Georgia's public colleges and universities to the state's business community in innovative ways.

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University System of Georgia Project Helps Georgia's Aviation Companies – and Their Employees

Clayton State's Online B.A.S. Technology Management with a concentration in Aviation Administration helps careers "take off"

Delta wanted to promote outstanding employees to management positions, but couldn't because the positions require a college degree. With University System of Georgia (USG) funding, Clayton State developed aviation management courses, and modified two degree completion programs for people with at least two years of college, so Delta and other aviation employees could earn their degrees online.

Of the 54 students who enrolled during the two years of USG funding for the program (FY 08 & 09), 33 have earned a college degree and another four are on track to graduate in December. These students work full-time and have family obligations, so they need flexibility.

Flexibility, and the room to innovate, is what the USG gave Clayton State. "We soon realized that our plan of teaching classes on-site at Delta wouldn't work because employees' work schedules changed often," says Ginny Bass, Clayton State's degree completion program director. "We were already approved to offer the courses online, and the USG agreed with that approach. It was the foundation for all of our online degree completion programs."

Most of the program's aviation students continue to be Delta employees, but AirTran, ASA, and other aviation company employees also have enrolled. And the interest goes beyond aviation. "Firefighters at the Smyrna Fire Department are very excited about the new Homeland Security concentration available online, since their work schedules change periodically as they bid for shifts," says Bass.



Bryan LaBrecque, who retired in 2007 as president of ASA after 30 years in the aviation industry, designed the aviation courses. He now teaches at Clayton State full-time.



Steven Dunn began working for Priority Jet and Priority Jet Maintenance in March 2009 as the janitor/shop helper. Today, he is the general manager. Clayton State's online degree completion program allowed Dunn to return to college while working full-time. "My online communications class enabled me to articulate the forthcoming changes in our company. This semester, my aviation-related classes are helping me to more effectively manage and grow our company," Dunn says.

Clayton State's online degree completion programs* have concentrations in:

- Organizational Leadership
- Aviation Administration
- Project Supervision
- Computer Networking
- Applied Criminal Justice
- Homeland Security

*BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE

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