NEWS RELEASE

American Airlines partners with schools to give a hands-on introduction to STEM careers

12/26/2019

As part of its commitment to promoting interest in aviation, American Airlines recently invited students from W.H. Adamson High School in Dallas to tour the airlines' maintenance hangar at Dallas Fort Worth International Airport. The tour gave more than 25 students an opportunity to learn more about the operation and see how STEM professions play a vital role in aircraft maintenance.

The tour was part of American's partnership with Dallas Independent School District, Dallas County Community College and IBM, which supports Adamson's Pathways in Technology Early College High Schools (P-Tech) program. P-Tech enables students to earn their high school diploma as well as a two-year associate degree in just four years. This program also gives American an opportunity to help motivate students and introduce them to various fields within the aviation industry, including IT and aircraft maintenance.

"This partnership has been a great way to help inspire our youth and get them interested and excited about careers in STEM as it relates to aviation," said Jim Catlin, IT Manager for American. "These students have definitely inspired us as well. Watching them grow and gain experience and skills in areas they had very limited knowledge about initially has been remarkable to see."

During the tour of the maintenance hangar, students were able to board a Boeing 787, which was the first time some of the students had ever been on an aircraft. Students also had the opportunity to speak with Aviation Maintenance Technicians (AMTs) about their career path in aviation, while also watching the team maintain our fleet for safety.

Since the program's inception in 2016, American has offered students hands-on training and insight into various

STEM topics such as coding and artificial intelligence. Most recently, American installed airport kiosks at the school to teach students how to operate and repair the internal hardware and software. The first group of students who enrolled in the P-Tech program as freshman at Adamson High School are now juniors.

Adamson High School students tour American's Base Maintenance facility at Dallas Fort Worth International Airport as part of American's partnership with the school.

American's commitment to STEM initiatives

American often participates in initiatives that help introduce students to STEM careers in aviation. The airline has facilitated other maintenance hangar tours for students at Chicago O'Hare International Airport and Tulsa International Airport, where the world's largest commercial aviation base maintenance facility is located. Additionally, American's Line Maintenance team in Los Angeles partnered with the Project Scientist Academy and Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum earlier this year as part of an initiative that supports aspiring young aviators from Compton, California.

The airline also participates in programs geared toward young girls, such as Mastercard's Girls4Tech STEM program, which helps young girls build skills that help them become STEM leaders. In May, American and Mastercard hosted the first ever **Girls4Tech Take Flight hackathon**, where girls ages 11–14 received experience with real-life STEM applications and worked to solve some of the most challenging coding issues. Also, in September, Phoenix-based American team members gave local **Girl Scouts** a behind-the-scenes look at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, where they learned about the aviation industry and the importance of STEM education.