



**To:** NJ Institutions of Higher Education  
**From:** NJ Office of the Secretary of Higher Education  
**Date:** June 19, 2025  
**Subject:** Eligible NJ IHEs Encouraged to Apply for Air Traffic-Collegiate Training Initiative Partnership Program

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The United States is experiencing a shortage of air traffic controllers, with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in need of approximately 3,000 controllers to fully staff the system.<sup>1</sup> We aim to address this challenge starting in New Jersey.

The [Air Traffic-Collegiate Training Initiative \(AT-CTI\) Partnership Program](#) offers a unique opportunity for higher education institutions. This partnership between selected colleges and universities and the FAA offers two- and four-year non-engineering aviation degrees. These programs include foundational courses in air traffic control and aviation administration. Graduates from AT-CTI participating schools are eligible to bypass the first five weeks of initial qualification training at the FAA Academy.

The Enhanced Initiative allows qualified institutions to provide their students with equivalent FAA Academy air traffic control training locally. The Enhanced AT-CTI graduate, with FAA oversight, will be placed directly into a facility, if hired, as Air Traffic Control Specialists. After graduating from one of the approved schools, new hires can immediately begin localized training at an air traffic facility. These graduates still must pass the Air Traffic Skills Assessment (ATSA) and meet medical and security requirements.

Given the national aviation shortages, we strongly encourage New Jersey public and private higher education institutions to apply for the Enhanced AT-CTI and become a partner institution.

For application and eligibility information, please visit: [How to Apply](#).

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<sup>1</sup> [Seewer, John \(2025, May 7\). What to know about the air traffic controller shortage. AP News.](#)  
<https://apnews.com/article/air-traffic-controllers-shortage-faa-sean-duffy-58811ae898daca67722d6e0741cf5822>