



Testimony for the Ohio Senate Education Committee

May 14, 2025

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Ohio Senate Education Committee - I stand before you today advocating for the future of Ohio's young people through our region's aerospace and maritime industries. Argonaut was founded in 2010 as a combined business/education non-profit that incorporates project-based learning and real-life experiences for high school-aged youth in the city of Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. Argonaut designed, launched and jointly operates a public high school rooted in local industry and history. The Davis Aerospace and Maritime High School is a public-private partnership between Argonaut and the Cleveland Metropolitan School District that builds upon the legacy of Cleveland alumnus and Tuskegee Airman, General Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. The CMSD provides the core content of the high school experience, ensuring students meet the requirements for high school graduation. Argonaut provides hands-on engagement in the industry sectors through expanded learning programming, paid internships and work experience, teacher-supported project-based learning, and works to both develop and support Career Technical Education credentialing and industry-specific licensing and certification. Graduates of Davis A&M will serve a critical role in Ohio's continued strength and growth in the Aerospace and Maritime Sectors.

Argonaut funding comes from a balance of industry support, philanthropy, grants and contract services. We were grateful to receive a One-Time Strategic Community Investment Fund allocation in the previous General Assembly.

All Davis students are introduced to the aerospace and maritime industries through immersive in-school and out of school programs. Our students are STEM educated, technically prepared, and often certificated, for the career path in which their passion lies. They earn paid internships where they hone their skills and establish networks. They graduate ready to fulfill the high demand, high paying jobs in Ohio aerospace and maritime sectors.

All Davis students graduate career ready, with most college ready as well. The passion and skills developed at Davis is also proving highly beneficial for the increasing number of students who choose to serve our country through military service. Regardless of our students' post-secondary aspirations, Argonaut believes that all career paths in the aerospace and maritime industries build from a technical education foundation. We have a moral and economic obligation to ensure that our young people have access to high-quality education that equips them with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in these fields. That's why Argonaut is requesting funding in the amount of one million dollars over the biennium to support the continued growth of our specialized programs at the Davis Aerospace and Maritime High School.

Thank you for your time and consideration.