



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Feb. 12, 2014

Spartan College and American Eagle Airlines establish Pilot Pipeline Program

Alliance creates strategy to fill positions with qualified pilots

(TULSA, Okla.) – Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology and American Eagle Airlines announced today the establishment of a Pilot Pipeline Program to recruit and train pilots eligible for hire upon degree and training completion.

“An alliance between Spartan College and American Eagle Airlines means a student with aspirations to serve as a pilot for a major airline is now a step closer to realizing his or her career goals,” said Peter Harris, president and CEO of Spartan College. “This partnership means Spartan can do what it does best – recruit, train, and retain pilots as a workforce pipeline for the American Eagle network and for one of our community’s largest employers – American Airlines Group.”



The Pilot Pipeline Program provides Spartan students the opportunity for employment as a commercial pilot at American Eagle Airlines. Students selected to enter the American Eagle First Officer Training Program will receive a \$10,000 signing bonus for a two-year commitment and a guaranteed interview with American Airlines for future career development.

“American Eagle Airlines created the Pilot Pipeline Program to ensure we have the quality and qualified pilots we need for future operations,” said Nicolas Brice, director of pilot recruitment for American Eagle Airlines. “This is an important initiative for our company that also helps program participants gain the experience they need to start career as commercial airline pilot while easing the financial burden of doing so.”

(more)

Spartan College | American Eagle Airlines
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“Spartan College has a long and storied history and has certainly been a significant contributor in Tulsa’s rise in the aerospace industry,” said Mayor Dewey Bartlett. “Spartan College has been training pilots in Tulsa since 1928. In fact, Spartan was founded just one year after Tulsa’s own William G. Skelly persuaded Charles Lindburgh to visit Tulsa and offered his now famous ‘stud horse note’ to investors to build our first Municipal Airport where Tulsa’s International Airport stands today.”

“Spartan College is a valuable asset for economic development,” said Justin McLaughlin, senior vice president of economic development for the Tulsa Regional Chamber. “Its top-tier reputation in pilot and technical degrees develops the type of trained workforce needed to recruit new jobs and retain businesses in Tulsa’s largest economic engine, aerospace. The partnership with American Eagle Airlines today is yet another great example of a Tulsa school stepping up to fill a gap in a workforce pipeline.”

The pilot training program at Spartan College is considered one of the most innovative programs of its kind. With a new flipped learning model students are in a practice-as-you-learn environment. This enables them to get in the air flying as quickly as their first week. In addition, the FAA has authorized Spartan’s degree graduates in flight to take the ATP with reduced flight hour minimums. As a result, Spartan College students can work as a Certified Flight instructor after only 12 months while obtaining their associate or bachelor degrees. A bachelor degree graduate will have obtained approximately 1,200 flight hours and be qualified to obtain their restricted ATP license in a total of just under three years.

“The competition for trained pilots is increasing as many of the nation’s pilots are reaching the required retirement age of 65. National airlines are beginning to backfill those positions with pilots from regional airlines,” said Harris. “Entering a pilot training program today has long-term career growth opportunities.”

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EDITOR’S NOTE: See fact sheet for additional Pilot Pipeline Program information.



Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology | Pilot Recruitment

Pilot Pipeline Program | American Eagle Airlines

- » Spartan identifies and recommends eligible students for an American Eagle Airlines interview to enter the Pipeline Program
- » Upon completion of an Associate of Applied Science in Aviation Flight and a Bachelor of Science in Aviation Technology Management, a graduate completing the recruitment process may select one of two conditional offers as either a pipeline instructor or as a deferred pilot
- » A Pipeline instructor or the recipient of a deferred pilot offer may enter the American Eagle First Officer Training Program after obtaining the Federal Aviation Administration's required flight hours for commercial passenger airline pilots
- » Pilots selected to enter the First Officer training and sign a two-year letter of commitment will receive a \$10,000 signing bonus
- » A Pipeline Program Pilot is guaranteed an interview with American Airlines for future career development

Changes in Federal Regulations |

- » Federal changes summer 2013
 - Federal mandates requires all newly hired pilots to have at least 1,500 hours of prior flight experience—six times the previous minimum—raising the cost and time to train new fliers in an era when pay cuts and more-demanding schedules already have made the profession less attractive.
- » Federal changes early 2014
 - Gives pilots more daily rest time. This change is expected to force passenger airlines to increase pilot ranks by at least 5%.
- » Additional issues
 - U.S. pilots moving to overseas carriers, many of which already face an acute shortage of aviators and pay handsomely to land well-trained U.S. captains.

- The mandatory retirement age for pilots was changed from 60 to 65 years old, in 2008. As a result, thousands of senior pilots at major airlines soon will start hitting the mandatory retirement age of 65.

About Spartan Professional Pilot Training Program |

- » Pilot training since 1928
- » FAA Part 61 and 141 approved
- » Two flight training programs
 - Aviation flight diploma is a 12 month program
 - Associate of Applied Science Aviation Flight program is 17 months
 - Private Pilot, Instrument Rating, Commercial Pilot, CFI (Certified Flight Instructor), and CFII (Certified Flight Instrument Instructor)
- » The Spartan program consists of private, commercial and certified flight instructor certificates. It also provides instrument and multi-engine ratings
- » Students begin in-flight training within first week of program and fly almost every day of instruction
- » Approximately 1,000-1,200 hours of flight training completed by Bachelor's graduation*— compared to only 250-300 hours during a University's 24 month program
- » Minimum age for enrollment is 17 years old, but required to reach 18 years old prior to receiving the Commercial Pilot Certificate by the Federal Aviation Administration
- » Financial aid available for those who qualify
- » Curriculum overhaul in 2013
 - Compressed program length to optimize instruction
 - Incorporated the “flipped” learning model where students do pre-work in advance of class time reducing hours of lecture time.
 - Practice what you learned each day for improved retention
 - Enables students to begin their in-flight training the first week
 - Students have all coursework on iPads including all relevant flight software used in training

*Estimate based on working as a Certified Flight Instructor at Spartan.