



University OUTREACH
College of Continuing Education
College of Liberal Studies

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August 13, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

OU Aviation to Host Fall “First Day” Kick Off

In celebration of a new semester, the University of Oklahoma Department of Aviation is hosting the inaugural Fall First Day Kick Off on Monday, August 24, at 2:00 p.m.

The festivities will begin with a mix-and-mingle hot dog cookout at the terminal lawn for all new and current students, alumni, faculty, and staff. The OU Flying Sooners will do a National Intercollegiate Flying Association (NIFA) barrel drop demonstration at 3:30 p.m. At 4:00 p.m., there will be a welcome meeting for all new freshman and transfer students in the terminal building and at 5:00 p.m., there is a mandatory first-time fliers meeting in the upstairs classroom.

A special highlight of this event is a static display of an Envoy Air Embraer 145. The crew of the plane will be available for questions and comments during the afternoon. OU was the first public institution in the nation to participate in the Envoy (formerly American Eagle Airlines) pipeline agreement, which gives qualifying OU aviation students the opportunity to launch their careers with Envoy upon graduation from OU.

“Envoy is proud to partner with the University of Oklahoma and its AABI accredited aviation program,” said Captain Nicolas Brice, Director of Pilot Recruitment. “Envoy is focused on hiring the brightest and most qualified pilots, and offering them a direct career path to American Airlines, which is the largest mainline carrier in the world. At Envoy, pilots will hone their skills and gain valuable experience that will position them for a long and successful career with American.”

Brice also mentioned that as American Airlines continues to hire, they project that newly hired First Officers at Envoy will upgrade to Captain in two and one half years, and will flow-through to American in six years, which is promising news for newly trained pilots on the job search.

Director of Aviation Ken Carson said, “We are proud of our partnership with Envoy. It’s such a great opportunity for our graduates. In the last 50 years there has never been a better path toward an airline career except by joining the armed forces and flying for 10 years.” Carson continued, “The demand for airline pilots over the next five to fifteen years is unprecedented. This is due to large numbers of airline pilots becoming retirement eligible. This is good news for those who aspire to be in command and responsible for a passenger jet and the crew and passengers on it.”

The OU Department of Aviation is housed at the Max Westheimer Airport at 1700 Lexington St. in Norman, just north of Robinson Street between Interstate 35 and Flood. OU faculty and students are welcome to visit. For more information, call 325-7231 or visit the website at aviation.ou.edu.

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