



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**West Virginia University Institute of Technology and FlightSafety International  
Launch A “Career Jumpstart” Aviation Management Degree Program**

Beckley, West Virginia - The West Virginia University Institute of Technology and FlightSafety International will launch the first class of their joint Bachelor of Science in Aviation Management degree program in August 2017.

The new degree leverages strengths from two world-class training institutions to deliver what proposes to be an optimal way to jumpstart a career for prospective pilots and aviation professionals. Students take advantage of WVU Tech’s comprehensive business, management, aviation, and general education curriculum, delivered online so that they can learn from wherever they reside. Concurrently, students enter FlightSafety Academy’s prestigious professional pilot training program, in Vero Beach, Florida, with the ability to become certified in single and multi-engine airplanes as commercial pilots.

Prospective candidates, who already hold pilot certificates can join the program and receive credit for those qualifications, provided they meet certain conditions. “The program is ideal for the aviation professional who wishes to complete a bachelor’s degree while maintaining their current employment,” says Frank Robbins, director, Aviation Programs at WVU Tech. “Potential pilots will find the match between WVU Tech’s compelling business curriculum and FlightSafety Academy’s renowned flight training to be the best way to ensure their career trajectory starts off on the right path.”

The program offers significant experience to students, with the opportunity upon graduation to work as an instructor at FlightSafety Academy. This feature lets them build the necessary 1,500 hours of flight experience now required by most airlines to get hired. Participants in the program will also have access to FlightSafety’s Airline Transport Pilot Certification Training Program, as conducted at the company’s Learning Centers around the United States.

“We are proud to partner with WVU Tech and provide our customers the opportunity to acquire a fully rounded academic degree, one that will serve them well as they become professional pilots, and compliment the world-class flight training offered by FlightSafety Academy for more than 50 years,” says Nancy Ritter, Manager, FlightSafety Academy.

Access program details at <http://admissions.wvutech.edu/academics/majors/aviation-management> or, to speak to a WVU Tech admissions counselor, prospective students should call 304-929-0311.

### **About the partners**

A campus within the West Virginia University system, West Virginia University Institute of Technology at Beckley, West Virginia, is a four-year institution that offers more than 40 academic programs. WVU Tech's high-quality engineering programs have, for the second year in a row, been featured among Newsweek's Best ABET-accredited programs in the country. WVU Tech is ranked #1 in the state for annual student return on investment and in the top 10% for salary potential among state schools. Follow WVU Tech on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/WVUInstituteofTechnology/>), Instagram ([https://www.instagram.com/wvu\\_tech/](https://www.instagram.com/wvu_tech/)), and Twitter ([https://twitter.com/WVU\\_Tech](https://twitter.com/WVU_Tech))

Training pilots since 1966, FlightSafety Academy is a reliable and highly respected resource for many domestic and international airlines, with a reputation for graduating men and women who possess excellent pilot skills. It offers a full complement of well-equipped classrooms, on-site accommodations, and aircraft maintenance hangars. The Academy's fleet of nearly 100 wholly owned aircraft includes Piper Warriors (single-engine), Piper Arrows (single-engine) and Piper Seminoles (multi-engine). Some are equipped with Garmin G500 series "glass cockpit" avionics. Follow FlightSafety Academy on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/flightsafetyintacademy/>) and Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/flightsafetyacademy/>).

FlightSafety International (a Berkshire Hathaway company) is the world's premier professional aviation training company, and supplier of flight simulators, visual systems and displays to commercial, government and military organizations. FlightSafety provides more than 1.4 million hours of training each year to pilots, technicians and other aviation professionals from 167 countries and independent territories. FlightSafety operates the world's largest fleet of advanced full flight simulators at Learning Centers and training locations in the United States, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, and the United Kingdom. Follow FlightSafety International on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/FlightSafetyInt/>), Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/flightsafetyint/>), and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/FlightSafetyInt>).

**For editors: Graduates and current students from WVU Tech and FlightSafety Academy programs are available for interview purposes. Please contact Frank Robbins at WVU Tech (304-673-8268 or [frank.robbsins@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:frank.robbsins@mail.wvu.edu)) or the Sales and Marketing Department at FlightSafety Academy (772-564-7600 or [academy@flightsafety.com](mailto:academy@flightsafety.com)) to make arrangements.**