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March - April 2008



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## Startup Airline Completes First Year at KCI

Branching out from its Continental Airlines roots, the newly created ExpressJet Airlines last year introduced Kansas City to its unique product, linking unserved routes while providing a comfortable mix of onboard services. This month marks the one-year KC anniversary for ExpressJet Airlines and word continues to spread to the region's travelers about a new choice in the air.

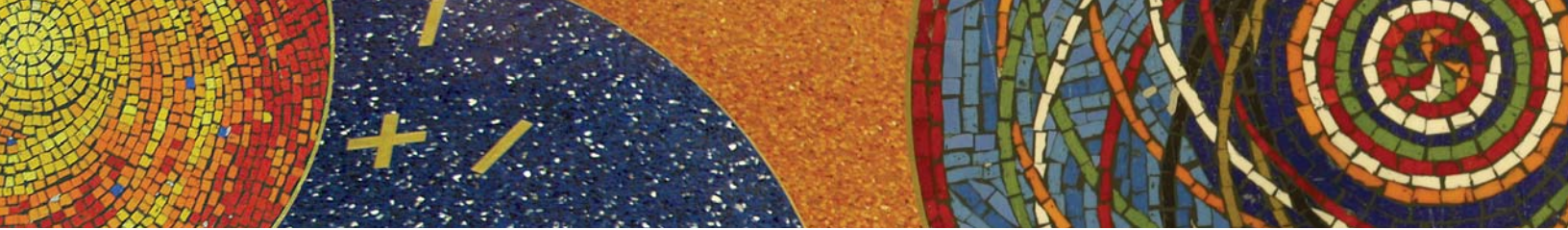
Headquartered in Houston, Texas, ExpressJet Airlines is one of the world's largest operators of regional aircraft. The airline has 274 planes in service all across the North America and the Caribbean. It has 18 maintenance bases and approximately 60 airport locations. At Kansas City International Airport, ExpressJet utilizes new Embraer 145 jets which can carry 50 passengers nonstop to five cities: Jacksonville, New Orleans, Los Angeles/Ontario, Raleigh/Durham and Tucson.

The airline has differentiated itself from competitors by touting its many traveler amenities. For example, ExpressJet offers valet carry-on bag service and free 100 choice channels of XM® Satellite Radio.

Its seats are assigned and wide memory-foam leather with no middle seat. Passengers can snuggle in further with the generously filled onboard pillows and fleece blankets. The airline also satisfies travelers' appetites by featuring its own brand of affordable wine, \$1 beers, free brand-name snacks and full-service meal options. The low-cost carrier also has its own frequent flyer program entitled "Jetset". Further, in a statement released last fall, ExpressJet announced it has one of the fastest and most consistent turn-around times in the industry, with a 99 percent maintenance reliability rating.

In 2007, ExpressJet boarded nearly 8,000 passengers, accounting for 1.5% of KCI Airport's total passenger enplanements. Its upcoming summer schedule includes nonstop daily service to five destinations with New Orleans receiving twice-daily service. ExpressJet also operates as Continental Express and Delta Connection and offers charter services in other markets.





## Property Development Continues

The KCI Ambassador Building in January signed up two more new tenants for the property. Butler Manufacturing, a BlueScope Steel Company, was founded in 1901 and is a building-solutions company which provides design, manufacture, and marketing of metal building systems for commercial construction. The company currently operates manufacturing, engineering, and service centers throughout the United States and around the globe. Once moved in, Butler will occupy 5,100 square feet of space and host about 30 employees. Its lease is for one year, but could be extended to three.

United Transportation Union has also finalized a lease for space in the Ambassador Building. The space will be used for the railroad segment of the company's team. They will use about 2,500 square feet for 7 years and their space is currently undergoing some "build-out" work.



Additionally, three existing tenants have extended their leases. Land O'Lakes Purina Feed LLC, U.S. Premium Beef and National Beef Packing Company have all lengthened their stays for various years. Work is also progressing on several aesthetic renovations in the building for tenants. The space for Synbiotics Corporation, a lessee signed last fall, is nearly ready. Plans for renovating the lobby are also planned. The security desk will be replaced with one that integrates camera monitoring of the property, a public address system and a 24-hour secure access program. A 50-inch, interactive video screen will also be installed in the lobby so visitors can view the building directory and more easily find their way.

The KCI Ambassador Building was purchased by the Kansas City Aviation Department in 2006 as one of many ways to enhance the Department's revenue stream. With the new lessees, the building is over 50% full and has 10 tenants.

## Airport Master Plan Captures Youths' Imagination

Three students and one alumna from the University of Nebraska-Omaha's Aviation Institute recently visited the Kansas City Aviation Department as part of an in-depth school study. They were part of a group of 25 students under the direction of Dr. Scott E. Tarry working on their final collegiate project by creating a mini master-plan for the future of KCI Airport. The four met with Department officials to review the unpublished contents of KCI's currently in-progress master plan and discussed their ideas for the future. Some of the other topics of discussion initiated by the students included noise contours, future terminal designs, in-line baggage systems, building an extra runway, future aircraft designs, and the difficulties KCI faces with multiple security screening points. All of these issues will be addressed in the actual plan to be presented to the Federal Aviation Administration in a few months.



## TSA to Pilot Airport Employee Screening at KCI Airport

The Transportation Security Administration announced in February that seven airports will take part in airport employee screening pilots as a requirement of the Omnibus Appropriations Act. Passed by Congress in January 2008, the act includes Kansas City International Airport in the group. Specifically, the legislation mandates 100 percent employee screening be evaluated at three airports and alternative employee screening at four other airports for a 90-day period.

"These pilots will give us important information as we evaluate the best way to secure the operations side of the airport," said Kip Hawley, TSA administrator.

Use of multiple security measures will enable the TSA to evaluate the most effective manner of screening airport employees. Airport employees and other employees including concession workers who have access to secure areas of the airports will be screened before they can enter those areas. The TSA currently deploys a layered approach to airport employee security that includes random and roving screening, checkpoint screening for certain populations and "surge" inspections. Random screening ensures that at any time airport employees may encounter security on the airport grounds. In addition, the TSA has made strides in improving the airport employee badging process. As part of that, TSA requires all badged airport employees to have a clear security threat assessment before a badge can be issued, and audits are underway at airport badging offices across the country to verify adherence to this measure.

More than 100 airports expressed interest in participating in the pilots scheduled to begin in May. Airports were selected, in part, to ensure that those of different sizes are represented. The seven airports are Boston's Logan International, Denver International, Jacksonville (Fla.) International, Kansas City (Mo.) International, Eugene (Ore.), Southwest Oregon Regional (North Bend, Ore.) and Craven Regional (New Bern, N.C.). The pilots programs vary between airports in the study. At KCI Airport, screeners will use what the TSA calls enhanced security screening, random screening, behavior detection programs, employee security awareness training and will deploy portable screening equipment.

The Omnibus Appropriations Act provides up to \$15 million for these employee screening programs. The TSA is required to report to Congress before Sept. 1, 2008 on the cost and effectiveness of the pilot programs at each airport. For more information about the program and other screening issues, visit TSA's website, [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov).

## Passenger Service Update

Delta Air Lines added a ninth daily flight to and from Atlanta for June, July and August. The net gain is 600 seat departures per week.

United Airlines increased capacity for its Denver route in June, July and August. During this time, the carrier will use bigger aircraft, namely Boeing 757s. The resulting net gain will be 500 seat departures per week.

US Airways added another frequency to the Philadelphia market beginning in May. This latest addition brings the total number of daily departures to four to the city.

## Departure Lounge Concessions

Food and beverage concessions are now offered in all departure lounges at KCI Airport's Terminals A and B. In Terminal C, there are concessions in all departing lounges except American and ExpressJet. These two airlines will offer the services in the near future. Additionally, Frontier will be opening soon with beverages only. There are no plans to offer concessions in the SkyBus holdroom at this time.

## Ad Wins Creative Award

A new advertisement produced by the Kansas City Aviation Department and Kuhn & Wittenborn Advertising has won a coveted "Silver Telly" award. The ad runs on the departure lounge televisions during commercial breaks and features a chimpanzee using the department's Web site and parking lots. A Silver Telly is a first-place recognition and is awarded to entries receiving 9 points or better on a 10-point scale. Founded in 1978, the Telly Awards is the premier award honoring outstanding TV commercials and programs, as well as the finest video and film productions. Additionally, the Telly Awards is an international competition that receives more than 14,000 entries annually from the U.S. and foreign countries. Each year, the awards showcase the best work of the most respected advertising agencies, production companies, television stations, cable operators and corporate video departments in the world. The advertisement can also be seen for a brief time on the home page of [www.flykci.com](http://www.flykci.com).

*The "FlyKCI.com" newsletter is the official publication of the Kansas City Aviation Department and includes developments at both Kansas City International Airport and at Charles B. Wheeler Downtown Airport. Editorial comments may be directed to [kathleen\\_hefner@kcmo.org](mailto:kathleen_hefner@kcmo.org).*

## Aviation Department Arrivals

The Kansas City Aviation Department salutes its new, transferred and promoted employees...

Steven Berry - Maintenance Electrician, Field Maintenance

Rhonda Byrd - Building Maintenance Worker, Facilities Custodial

Brett Coy - Airport Police Officer, Airport Police

Hewan Gebre - Building Maintenance Worker, Facilities Custodial

Alex Ludden - Maintenance Repairer, Downtown Airport

Kallie McCarthy - Administrative Assistant, Marketing

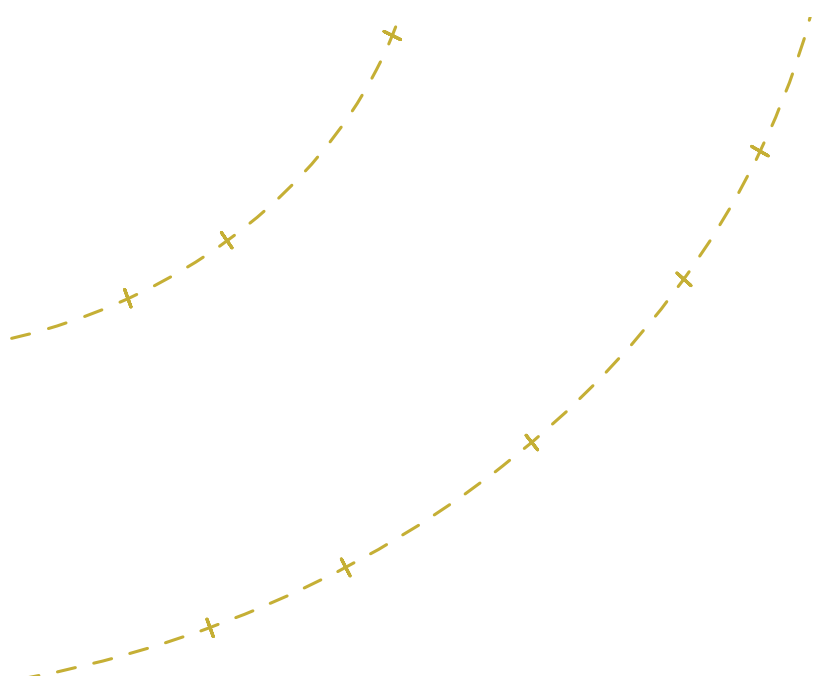
Kevin Miles - Maintenance Mechanic, Field Maintenance

Justin Rust - Airport Police Officer, Airport Police

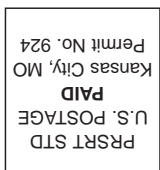
Gary Stanford - Maintenance Mechanic, Facilities Structural

Jane Wallberg - Traffic Control Officer, Airport Police

Jamiene Wiggins - Airport Police Officer, Airport Police



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