American Eagle Airlines and Southeastern Oklahoma State University have signed two agreements to encourage and help students pursue careers as commercial airline pilots.

Under these agreements, the two parties will establish the American Eagle Pipeline Program, that begins while Southeastern students are still enrolled at the University and culminates with a guaranteed position for the student at American Eagle as a first officer. The Pipeline Program will not only help the company address their growing demand for qualified commercial pilots, but also will assist students by reducing the economic hurdles that might prevent them from pursuing a career in aviation.

“This is really a landmark day for the Southeastern aviation program,” Southeastern president Larry Minks said at a signing ceremony held Sept. 27 at the University. “It will open up a world of opportunity for our students as they pursue their careers in aviation. We believe this partnership is of mutual benefit for American Eagle and Southeastern.”

To join the program, candidates will need to be enrolled in the Southeastern aviation program and meet certain screening and application standards. Once they are in the program, participants will be monitored and mentored through graduation. After graduation they will serve as certified flight instructors for Southeastern, while being able to enjoy the privileges and benefits of being an American Eagle employee. Once these individuals obtain the Federal Aviation Administration’s required flight hours for commercial passenger airline pilots, they can then begin serving as first officers for American Eagle.

“American Eagle created the Pipeline Program to ensure we have the quality and qualified pilots we need for future operations,” said Nicholas Alford, American Eagle’s director of pilot recruitment. “The current demand for pilots is greater than the number of individuals available for hire. We hope by working with Southeastern we can fill our ranks with the best new flight professionals possible, while easing program participants transition from student to pilot.”

American Eagle is the regional partner of American Airlines and with a fleet of more than 220 aircraft and hubs in Chicago O’Hare, Dallas/Fort Worth, Miami, New York LaGuardia and New York Kennedy. Operating more than 1,800 flights a day to 159 cities across the United States, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean, the American Eagle network is the largest regional airline system in the world.

“I am very excited to have this opportunity to work with American Eagle for our aviation program,” said Dr. David Conway, director of the Southeastern Aviation Sciences Institute. “This pipeline program will bring a new dimension to our training, while taking it to a higher level of application.”

The Southeastern Aviation Sciences Institute is accredited by the Aviation Accreditation Board International.

The Southeastern aviation program received more good news recently when the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) granted authority to the University to certify graduates of the school’s professional pilot program to be eligible for an Airline Transport Pilot certificate with reduced aeronautical experience.
Southeastern again named military-friendly school

Victory Media, the premier media entity for military personnel transitioning into civilian life, has named Southeastern Oklahoma State University to the coveted Military Friendly Schools® list for the second consecutive year.

The 2014 Military Friendly Schools® list honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace America’s military service members, veterans, and spouses as students and ensure their success on campus.

Occupational Safety & Health receives $10,000 gift

The Southeastern Oklahoma State University Department of Occupational Safety & Health (OSH) was the recipient recently of a substantial donation from the Anadarko Petroleum Company.

Anadarko representatives Dustin Payne, CSP, Senior EHS Representative, Ashley Segal, EHS Representative II, and Ariana Ochoa, International EHS Representative, were on hand at the Durant campus to present Dr. Wayne Jones, department chair, with a check for $10,000 to be used for educational supplies and equipment in the department.

Anadarko has a long history with Southeastern’s OSH Department and has employed many Southeastern graduates over the years.

The Southeastern Department of Occupational Safety had record numbers this semester, with 585 students enrolled in both the undergraduate and graduate degree programs, and is on track to graduate more than 100 undergraduate and graduate OSH students this year.

Parents, Family & Friends Day held Sept. 21 at SE

Southeastern Oklahoma State University hosted “Parents, Family, and Friends Day” on Saturday, Sept. 21.

Events took place at Tailgate Alley (between 1st and 2nd on University Blvd. across from Paul Laird Field).

Activities included live music and dance performances prior to the Henderson State-Southeastern football game.

University offers new degree in child development

In an effort to meet the needs of students and the job market, Southeastern Oklahoma State University is now offering a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Intervention and Child Development. With the exception of a couple of courses, the degree, based in Ardmore, is offered online.

This degree program provides individuals who are interested in or currently working with young children the opportunity to earn a bachelor’s degree in the field related directly to their work. It will also aid graduates with employment opportunities in areas such as Head Start, the Department of Human Services, and other agencies.

The new degree program will also address a critical need for earlier intervention for children with special needs. The program is designed for individuals not interested in teaching.

Among the courses in the degree are Psychology, Elementary Education, Health, Physical Education and Recreation, and Ethics.

Some 15 students are currently enrolled in the program, and the potential for growth is strong, according to Dr. Robin Plumb, Southeastern’s director of academic services at the University Center of Southern Oklahoma in Ardmore.
Southeastern Oklahoma State University enjoyed a grand Homecoming 2013 celebration on October 3-4-5.

This year’s activities were built around the theme of “Stormcoming.”

Honored as Distinguished Alumni were Dr. Jim Barnes, Assistant Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Gary Batton, and Mr. Robert “Rob” Wells. Recipients of the Distinguished Former Faculty Award were Dr. Jan Dill, Dr. Ken Washburn, and Dr. John “Rick” Wright.

All of these individuals were honored at the Distinguished Awards Banquet, held on Friday, Oct. 4, in the Visual & Performing Arts Center.

Other activities on Friday included the 27th annual Whang Bang Golf Tournament and a True Blue Rally at the Amphitheater. At the rally-bonfire, Southeastern’s new Savage Storm mascot – “Bolt” – was introduced in costume for the first time.

Cool fall weather greeted everyone on Saturday morning for the annual Homecoming parade held in downtown Durant.

Saturday afternoon at Paul Laird Field, the Southeastern Savage Storm hosted the Texas A&M-Commerce Lions. After a lengthy weather (lightning) delay, the visiting Lions emerged with a 31-29 victory.

At halftime, Sheridan Hill and Domanick Hubbard were crowned Homecoming Queen and King.
Texoma Broadcasting provides tower for campus radio station

Thanks to Texoma Broadcasting, Inc., the Southeastern Oklahoma State University student radio station (KSSU) has a new site to transmit its signal.

KSSU began broadcasting from Texoma Broadcasting’s new tower, located on 49th Street in Durant, on September 10. The two parties signed a 99-year lease with Southeastern paying $1 annually.

“We truly appreciate the generosity and support of Allen Wheeler, Todd Tidwell, and Gerald Tidwell at Texoma Broadcasting,” said Southeastern president Larry Minks.

“They have made a sizable investment that should provide a long-term solution to our transmission needs.”

Previously, the KSSU signal was transmitted from a Durant tower owned by NextMedia, which was located 3 miles east of Durant. Following damage to that tower, KSSU transmitted its signal from a temporary site on campus atop the Choctaw Tower. This was in operation from February 2012 until the new Texoma tower was made available this September.

Texoma Broadcasting contributed $83,000 on this project to relocate the antenna. In addition, the company funded all engineering and installation expenses, including the purchase of a new directional antenna and all other necessary equipment and material.

Texoma Broadcasting, Inc. was founded in 1999 and began operating KLBC through the partnership of Allen Wheeler, Todd Tidwell and Gerald Tidwell.

Wheeler is co-owner of Texoma Broadcasting, Inc., and is a Southeastern graduate.

“We are proud of our relationship with Southeastern that dates back to when KSEO first went on the air in 1947,” he said. “The University played an important role in my success and I’m happy to be in the position to be able to give back to my alma mater. The location of the KSSU antenna on our new broadcast tower allows the campus radio station to reach more people and expand the influence of our great university, while at the same time, solidifies Texoma Broadcasting’s relationship with Southeastern for many more years to come.”

Texoma Broadcasting will be activating a new 25,000 watt radio station, KBBC 99.7, in early November, with a strong signal in Bryan, Atoka, Johnston and Marshall counties, as well as north Texas.

Also under the Texoma Broadcasting umbrella are longtime stations KLBC-FM and KSEO-AM.

Allen Wheeler and Southeastern president Larry Minks stand in front of the new tower.

Calendar of Events

October
4-5 Homecoming
15 Transfer Student Enrollment Day
17-18 Fall Break
24 Texoma Area College Fair, Bloomer Sullivan Arena, 9 a.m.

November
1 Top 10 Freshman Awards ceremony, Glen D. Johnson Student Union auditorium, 3:30 p.m.
6 SE Live and Native American Visitation Day, Montgomery Auditorium, 9 a.m. -- 3 p.m.
14-15 Native American Symposium
19 State of the University Address, Montgomery Auditorium, 2 p.m.
24 Alpha Chi Induction, Fine Arts Recital Hall, 4 p.m.
27-28-29 Thanksgiving break

December
9 Faculty Staff Christmas Open House, Magnolia House, 2-3:30 p.m.
9 Community Christmas Open House, 4-5:30 p.m.
9 Christmas Tree Lighting, front lawn, 7:10 p.m.
9 University Candlelighting Ceremony, Montgomery Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
14 Commencement, Bloomer Sullivan Arena
24-31 Christmas break

Southeastern Oklahoma State University, in compliance with Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246 as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and other federal laws and regulations, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices, or procedures. This includes but is not limited to admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services. This publication is issued by the Southeastern Oklahoma State University Office of University Communications and was printed by SE Printing Services of Durant, Oklahoma. One-hundred-fifty copies have been prepared for distribution at a cost of $120 to the taxpayers of the State of Oklahoma.

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