



AIR CAPITAL COMMITMENT

*A coordinated community response to
keep and support our people and companies*

February 7, 2020

Media Contact:

Andy McFayden, WSU Tech, amcfayden@wsutech.edu 316.677.1006

Vera Bothner, Bothner & Bradley, vbothner@bothnerandbradley.com 316.260.6330

WSU Tech announces tuition-free scholarships available for all laid-off aviation workers

In response to recent layoff announcements, WSU Tech has created an opportunity for those affected to receive a Wichita Promise Scholarship.

“If you’ve been laid off because of the production suspension, WSU Tech is in your corner with short-term and flexible – and most important – tuition-free training,” said Dr. Sheree Utash, WSU Tech President. “We’ve built these training opportunities with the laid-off worker in mind with short-term, half-day classes so people can upskill, re-skill or finish their degree. “

This scholarship program will pay tuition and fees for eligible classes and programs aimed at either helping individuals learn a new skill, add on to their existing skillset or finish their associate degree.

WSU Tech has classes starting as early as March with most reskill classes completed in 6 to 8 weeks, and in convenient half-day schedules. The classes can also be stacked toward an AAS degree.

In addition, WSU Tech provides personal career coaching by WSU Tech’s Career Services department.

“We understand that each person’s story is different and so we’re encouraging individuals to come in, tell us what they need and let us see how we can help them achieve their goals,” Utash said. “We are addressing concerns on an individual basis.”

People may call WSU Tech or e-mail upskill@wsutech.edu to set up a time to come the National Center for Aviation Training to speak with an advisor. WSU Tech will also be holding information sessions in the next few weeks. Dates and times can be found on the college’s website and Facebook page.

WSU Tech is offering the scholarships through internal budgeting as well as community partner donations, such as the recent Wichita Aero Club \$10,000 gift.

“Our understanding is that because March 10 is the end of the WARN notice for workers laid off from Spirit AeroSystems, those workers will get their last paycheck on March 26 so this is good timing for those who want to pursue additional skills,” said Keith Lawing, President and CEO of Workforce Alliance. “And of those workers who filled out a survey after the Rapid Response sessions, more than a third said they wanted to pursue additional training or school when asked about future employment plans.”

www.AirCapitaloftheWorld.com/commitment

More information on the scholarship offer and short-term upskill classes can be found at:
<https://wsutech.edu/communityresources/>

WSU Tech is also part of the Aerospace Task Force, a group of 15 organizations dedicated to providing strong, unified support to laid-off workers.

Access to all free resources and updated information available now at
www.AirCapitaloftheWorld.com/commitment:

- Four Workforce Centers – connect to open jobs, multiple job fairs, job search support
- 2-1-1 United Way – encouraged to call to connect to more than 1,050 programs in region
- Training and Education – options for short- and longer-term training and education
- Unemployment Resources – information about unemployment insurance
- Healthcare – information on COBRA and connections to neutral “assisters” for Marketplace

Air Capital Commitment coordinated by Aerospace Task Force Partners and provided by hundreds of regional and state organizations:

City of Wichita	State of Kansas
Greater Wichita Partnership	United Way of the Plains
Kansas Department of Commerce	Wichita Community Foundation
Kansas Department of Labor	Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce
Office of U.S. Representative Ron Estes	Wichita State University/National Institute for Aviation Research
Office of U.S. Senator Jerry Moran	Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas
Office of U.S. Senator Pat Roberts	WSU Tech
Sedgwick County	

###

WSU Tech is Kansas’s leader in modern technical education offering over 100 degree and certificate options in aviation, health care, manufacturing, design, information technology, police science and business. In 2018, WSU Tech was named the 2nd fastest growing college among two-year colleges by The Chronicle of Higher Education. WSU Tech serves as managing partner of the National Center for Aviation Training (NCAT) in Wichita, KS and is fully accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and is a Kansas Board of Regents institution. For more information, visit www.WSUTECH.edu.