



**February 19, 2013**



### **Jetliner Parts Reach WM Airport; MSCC Awaits Reassembly Process**

The process took a little longer than anticipated, but all the pieces of a 727 jetliner donated by FedEx to Mid-South Community College have reached West Memphis and are ready for reassembly.

CAVU (Ceiling And Visibility Unlimited) Aerospace, Inc. of Stuttgart, with the help of Marks House Moving, also of Stuttgart, transported the aircraft's fuselage on Monday, Feb. 11, to complete the relocation process. The delivery took about five hours from start to finish.

"The entire trip went very smooth," said Bryan Hancock, a partner at CAVU. "We are glad to have that portion of the project completed and are ready to move on to the next phase."

The West Memphis Police Department and MSCC's Security staff helped control traffic while the transportation crew backed the aircraft section onto Taxiway Drive and onto the College property adjacent to the West Memphis Municipal Airport. Dual, steerable wheels were attached near the rear of the fuselage to assist with the tight turns.

The reassembly process will begin when the worksite around the specially-poured concrete pad is sufficiently dry to allow machinery to move the pieces where they need to be.



The jetliner had to be flown to the Stuttgart Municipal Airport for disassembly because the runways at the West Memphis facility are not rated for a craft that heavy.

MSCC plans to use the iconic, signature aircraft in training students in its Aviation Maintenance Technology program.

“A plane of that caliber will be a great opportunity for our students to have access to technology that we otherwise would not have been able to provide for them,” said MSCC President Dr. Fenter. “It certainly sets our Aviation Maintenance program apart from a lot of other programs in the country.”

“More importantly, I think the plane represents the relationship between FedEx and Mid-South Community College that not only helps to create a unique internship opportunity but certainly bodes well for us in the future in terms of the evolution of our program.”

With the help of a \$1.5 million U.S. Department of Commerce/Economic Development Administration grant in 2012, MSCC will build a 22,000-square foot facility to house its aviation maintenance technology program. The structure will feature an aircraft hangar, classrooms, laboratories, and support areas for the program.

The construction project will cost approximately \$2.6 million, and the College is pursuing additional funding sources to close the \$1.1 million gap. Aviation training currently takes place in MSCC’s Workforce Technology Center where the program shares space with advanced manufacturing and machining initiatives.

In the first quarter of 2010, Mid-South Community College received a \$3.4 million U.S. Department of Labor grant, funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, to establish the aviation tech program.

MSCC used the funding to develop an integrated, FAA-certified training program (AMTS certification-2MCT 601K) for airframe and powerplant technicians.

“Concerns about the global need for technicians prompted discussions about an industry/college partnership to establish a training and education program to provide a pipeline of workers for the future,” Dr. Morris said. “Many current workers are expected to retire in the next decade, so this program is vital to our region and our nation.”

For information about life-changing training and education programs at MSCC, visit the campus at 2000 West Broadway in West Memphis, call the Admissions Office at (870) 733-6728, email [admissions@midsouthcc.edu](mailto:admissions@midsouthcc.edu), or see the college’s website at [www.midsouthcc.edu](http://www.midsouthcc.edu).

