Dear Prospective Student:

The aviation world is changing rapidly and all indicators predict significant pilot shortages in the coming years. That makes now the perfect time to study aviation and prepare for a pilot or aviation management career.

For students who want to be professional pilots, just having a passion for flying and earning the necessary ratings and certificates is no longer enough.

Why choose a collegiate program?
Collegiate aviation programs have long been regarded as ideal sources of pilots. This is evidenced by the fact that major airlines have been requiring four-year college degrees for quite some time. Students attending collegiate aviation programs not only earn that essential four-year degree, but they are also able to earn all of the needed flight training certificates and ratings at the same time.

What about the many other collegiate programs?
We, at Westminster, have enjoyed being in the good company of the 130+ collegiate aviation programs in the country since we began our flight operations program in 2000. University Aviation Association member schools set high standards and share best practices as we all work to best prepare our students for success in aviation. There are many available options for students out there and we think that’s a good thing. It is vitally important that students carefully select a college that best meets their needs. There are several questions you should ask yourself, however, as you evaluate the many choices out there. To assist you, we’ve included with this letter a list of questions you should ask as you evaluate your choices.

How is Westminster different?
Location: We’ve always been unique in terms of our location. The Salt City International Airport is an ideal training location. From day one, our students fly alongside air carriers that will one day employ them—SkyWest, Delta, Southwest, United, American, FedEx, and many others. Radio calls in a busy class B airspace? For our students, it’s no problem as they quickly learn the necessary radio and operating procedures from the start.

Fleet: We’ve also been proud of our aircraft resources. Our Piper Archers, Arrows, and Seminole were purchased new from the factory and have been meticulously maintained by our own in-house maintenance team. We’ve also added to our fleet since we began operations to provide our students with additional, value-added flight opportunities. An aerobatic Micco SP-26 provides upset recovery training at all levels and spin training at the flight instructor level, and two Garmin 1000-equipped Cessna 172s round out our fleet and offer valuable glass experience. Our carefully chosen fleet of aircraft and flight training devices provides our students with the resources they need to be fully-prepared to enter their career in aviation.

Curriculum: We know what options are out there and we have decided to be different. New and unique to Westminster is a specially-designed curriculum that will be implemented fall 2011. This new approach to flight education not only better utilizes our distinct training location, but it uses scenario-
based training approaches, focuses more on student decision-making and self-evaluation, and incorporates industry recommendations that are expected to be formally announced in June 2011.

This curriculum has been collaboratively designed after years of research and careful consideration of anticipated industry needs. We are truly different in this area and are definitely NOT operating “business as usual.” Gone are the old “private, instrument, commercial, and multi-engine” labels. Instead, you will find “Foundations of Flight, PIC (Pilot-in-Command) Development, Intermediate, Advanced, Professional Pilot I and Professional Pilot II courses. New names, yes. More importantly, radically different approaches to how we will prepare you to succeed amidst the many significant changes in aviation.

Choose to attend a collegiate aviation program that is leading the change. Choose to attend Westminster.

You’ll be glad you did.

Sincerely,

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