



Dear Aviation Professional:

I'm sure that by now, you have heard the disturbing news that the Mercer County Community College is giving serious consideration to closing its 38 year old aviation program even though it provides extraordinary opportunities to students seeking careers in aviation.

Mercer County Community College is one of only two, two year community colleges in the country that has an aviation program approved by the Aviation Accreditation Board International.

The New Jersey Aviation Association, dedicated to the promotion and protection of general aviation and a big supporter of the college is looking for ways to prevent a closure of this important program from occurring. We are joined in this effort by the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) and its members.

MCCC, over the years, has provided significant contributions to New Jersey by providing career opportunities to New Jersey students who might otherwise not have been able to pursue them. At MCCC students have the ability to earn all of their ratings at a reasonable cost and then to complete their degrees at a four year college. As you know, many of those MCCC graduates are now flying for the airlines, corporations, charter companies and others.

While we face a serious downturn in the economy, it is imperative that we prepare for a brighter future by training people now, to fill the aviation jobs that will exist due to new business, retirements and promotions. We must act quickly to eliminate the shortage of instructor pilots at our local airports, who train the future pilots to fill those vacancies. MCCC can fill that need.

MCCC is contemplating the shut down of its aviation program because it is running at a deficit of \$350,000 per year. We urge you to consider a financial contribution to help their aviation program survive. They need to cover the deficit, acquire new aircraft and increase their marketing budget. This would also enable the college to develop enough growth in enrollment to avoid the closure. We believe that by doing so, New Jersey will be able to continue to compete with other states that are appropriating significant sums of money to upgrade their aviation facilities.

NJAA and NBAA are supporting this effort because we believe that a unified business effort is necessary if we are to save one of the State's valuable resources.

Please read the attached letter from MCCC. It provides additional information and explains how to make your pledge.

If you need more information, please contact Jack Elliott at wingsover@optonline.net who is representing NJAA in this effort.

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

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