



NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

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## **People are relocating to Wichita, KS to get trained and employed in the aviation industry thanks to WSU Tech's free-tuition scholarship program.**

*The scholarship promises paid tuition and fees for training in a high-demand career field, a guaranteed job interview, paid relocation costs, housing and living stipend, and a potential sign-on bonus.*

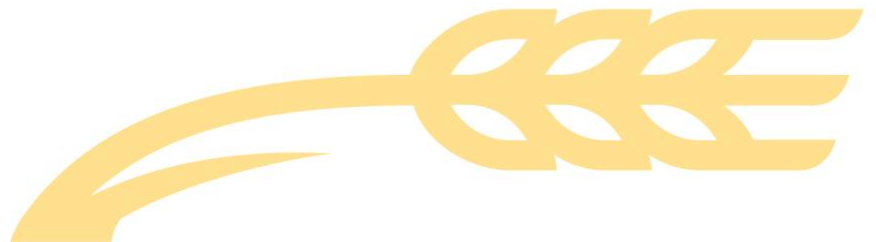
Wichita, KAN - Wichita, Kansas, named "The Air Capital of the World" is experiencing rapid growth in their aviation and manufacturing operations. WSU Tech, the largest technical college in Kansas, is thinking outside of the box to produce a trained workforce to meet their hiring needs through the creation of a scholarship program titled "[Wichita Promise Move](#)". Launched in July 2018, the purpose of the Wichita Promise Move is to relocate people who live at least 75 miles outside of the Wichita area to receive training and an employment opportunity at no cost to the student. This was created thanks to a grant initiative by the Wichita Community Foundation.

"Wichita Promise Move is designed to remove the barriers that keep individuals from getting trained" said Dr. Sheree Utash, President, WSU Tech." Whether those barriers are financial, location, time or the fear of failing, this innovative workforce development strategy will help individuals get the training they need to get a career and ultimately a better life."

WSU Tech set a goal to enroll 25 people who live outside Kansas and another 25 people who live in the state but outside a 75-mile radius of Wichita during the fall semester to start one of their short-term aviation training programs.

As of the beginning of October, 32 students from 14 states across the U.S. have moved to Wichita with another 18 enrolled and preparing to move at the end of the month. Of these, 75% of the students have come from outside of Kansas relocating from as far as New York, California and Massachusetts.

These eligible students receive tuition and fees paid for training in either [Aviation Sheetmetal Assembly](#) or [Process Mechanic Painter](#), relocation expenses paid, housing and cost-of-living stipends, a guaranteed job interview and a potential sign-on bonus. Most students in the program now already have jobs waiting at places like Textron Aviation and Spirit AeroSystems Inc.





Romar Tallie of Hattiesburg, Miss., was searching for a change when he saw a social media post about the Wichita Promise Move Program. The program looked so good, he even convinced his brother, Robert Tallie, and mother, Mardavi Howard, to make the move from Mississippi to Wichita.

“I woke up in the middle of the night, went on Instagram and saw an ad from WSU Tech, I thought it was too good to be true. But then I read the website and finished my application that night.” Said Tallie, when asked how he heard about the program. “After I finished my application, I woke up my brother and told him, “This is our chance.” Refusing to be left behind, the two brother’s mother also applied for the program. The three are now living in Wichita, enrolled in the Process Mechanic Painter program at WSU Tech and all have jobs waiting for them when they complete their training in a few weeks.

“The students who are in this program are some of the most courageous people with the most grit I have ever met. It’s inspiring to see them leave their homes, some traveling across the country, to pursue this opportunity. We know there are big things in their future and are excited to have these great new citizens in our community” said Utash.

To learn more about the Wichita Promise Move scholarship visit, [www.WSUTECH.edu/WichitaPromiseMove](http://www.WSUTECH.edu/WichitaPromiseMove).

WSU Tech, formerly Wichita Area Technical College, is the state’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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.WSUTECH.edu).

