



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, Dec. 6, 2007

**MESABA AIRLINES, MINNESOTA STATE MANKATO PARTNER IN
'BRIDGE' PROGRAM TO PREPARE AVIATION STUDENTS FOR POSSIBLE
MESABA CAREER**

Mankato, MN — (Dec. 6, 2007) – Mesaba Airlines and Minnesota State University, Mankato today announced a new partnership to create a 'bridge' program that will provide a streamlined selection process for students to have the opportunity to become future Mesaba Airlines pilots.

Mesaba and Minnesota State Mankato officials announced the new agreement at Mankato Regional Airport, in conjunction with the airport's runway extension dedication.

"Mesaba recognizes that Minnesota State Mankato's Aviation program provides high-quality training and experience for student pilots," said Mesaba Airlines President John Spanjers. "We are excited about this new alliance, and look forward to a long and successful relationship."

"We're delighted at the opportunity to work with such a highly respected Minnesota and national aviation industry pioneer as Mesaba Airlines," said Minnesota State Mankato President Richard Davenport. "This partnership not only will benefit Mesaba and the University, but also the entire state of Minnesota."

The new program is a plan that Minnesota State Mankato Aviation students can follow to 'bridge' to a career at Mesaba Airlines. Students who successfully complete 10 specified Minnesota State Mankato Aviation courses among other requirements will be granted an interview with Mesaba Airlines.

About Mesaba Airlines:

Mesaba Airlines is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Northwest Airlines and operates as a Northwest AirlinK partner under service agreements with Northwest. Mesaba provides service to 72 cities in the United States and Canada, operating an advanced fleet of regional jet and jet-prop aircraft, including the 50-passenger CRJ-200, the 34-passenger Saab 340 and the 76-passenger Bombardier CRJ900 regional jet aircraft.

About Minnesota State Mankato:

Minnesota State Mankato's Aviation program prepares students for responsible positions in the air transportation industry, including airline operations and management, corporate aviation, airport management and government operations. The University is a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, which comprises 32 state universities and community and technical colleges throughout Minnesota.

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