

April 24, 2007



Southwest Airlines Adopt-A-Pilot Turns 10!

Hundreds to Celebrate 10th Anniversary of National Educational Mentorship Program

WHO: Load up your backpacks and grab a juice box ... it's time to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the nationwide award-winning Southwest Airlines Adopt-A-Pilot educational mentorship program. Southwest CEO Gary Kelly and President Colleen Barrett

will lead the event, joined by former NASA Astronaut turned Southwest Captain Robert "Hoot" Gibson for this mega "school assembly" style event.

WHAT: Hundreds of Employees and VIPs will "play hooky" and come over to Southwest's Hangar D for the "class reunion" party featuring

a live band, special guests, and a surprise plane unveiling. The outdoor event will include a reunion between "adopted" Pilot Captain Jesus Melian and former student, Chun Mei Yu, who

is now grown and pursuing a nursing degree at University of Connecticut and a special plaque presentation to the students who designed the 10th Anniversary commemorative tie now proudly

worn by this year's class of "Adopted" Pilots.

Celebrating its 10th Anniversary year, the Southwest Airlines' annual Adopt-A-Pilot program is a four-week long mentorship program where Southwest Pilots volunteer their time in adoptive

classrooms and correspond while on the "road." Each class charts its "adopted" Pilot's course on a United States map and completes lessons covering science, math, geography, language arts, public speaking and more ... all relating back to the Pilot's monthly flying schedule. The program is reaching more than 30,000 students nationwide this semester and has involved more than 140,000 since 1997.

WHEN: Thursday, April 26
2:00 - 2:45 p.m.

WHERE: Southwest Airlines Headquarters, on the tarmac outside Hangar D
2702 Love Field Drive
Media parking available

VISUALS: Special festive unveiling of plane decal commemorating the Adopt-A-Pilot program.
Comments from Gary Kelly, Colleen Barrett, and "Hoot" Gibson.
Interviews with "adopted" Pilots who have volunteered for 10 years.
Interviews with students and their teachers.
Yellow school bus and Southwest Boeing 737-700 nose-to-nose.

MORE: For more info, visit <http://www.southwest.com/adoptapilot> and <http://www.adoptapilot.blogs.com>.

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