



Westmoreland County Airport Authority

148 Aviation Lane, Suite 103, Latrobe, PA 15650
(P) 724-539-8100 (F) 724-539-2441

Friday, March 11, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

More Than 2,000 Passengers Take Off in First Month of Spirit Airlines Service at Arnold Palmer Regional Airport

Friday marked one month since Spirit Airlines started direct flights from Arnold Palmer Regional Airport in Unity Township. And with only those 15 departures, 2,038 passengers have already enjoyed the two-and-a-half-hour ride to Fort Lauderdale, Fla.



(photo credit: Misty Pinson, Spirit Airlines)

Westmoreland County Airport Authority and officials with the Florida-based airline jointly announced the new service in November and spent the past several months preparing to launch the first of the ultra-low-cost direct flights on Feb. 12.

With passengers from all over western Pennsylvania and beyond boarding the Airbus 319s in droves of up to 145 at a time, all expectations have been exceeded.

“The business is clearly growing, and we’re very excited about that,” said authority Vice Chairman Donald Rossi.

“Nowhere in the history of this airport has there been this many people in one month. Not under US Airways, nobody,” Rossi said. “The public has clearly embraced this. We have taken surveys and asked people to comment on what we’re doing and they just love it. It’s a dream that we have all hoped for, and to see it realized is really something else.”

Spirit’s sleek, colorful jets seat a maximum of 145 passengers, setting the average load factor for departing flights so far at 94%.

In addition, 1,610 passengers have come into the Westmoreland County airport, near Latrobe, since the service began. That’s a total of 3,648 passengers overall.



Westmoreland County Airport Authority

148 Aviation Lane, Suite 103, Latrobe, PA 15650
(P) 724-539-8100 (F) 724-539-2441

“We are proud to host Spirit Airlines for western Pennsylvania,” said authority Executive Director Gabe Monzo. “And we are excited about our future partnership.”

Monzo attributes the success to several factors: ultra-low discount fares, direct flights and short lines. “Along with free parking and customer service that is second to none, we have a winning combination,” he said.

Airport officials are also optimistic for the launch of direct flights to Myrtle Beach, S.C., in May.

“There has been an outstanding response for that service, as well,” said Jeffrey Minkovich, the authority’s airline manager. “We look for it to be just as popular as the Florida flights.”

The Fort Lauderdale flights run Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Fares, booking and other flight information is available at www.spirit.com or by calling 800-772-7117.

For additional questions or comments, please contact:

Gabe Monzo
gmonzo@palmerairport.com
724-539-8100/cell 724-640-6182



Jeff Minkovich
jminkovich@palmerairport.com
724-539-8100/cell 724-640-2072



Misty Pinson
misty.pinson@spiritair.com
954-628-4827/cell 954-918-9432

