



An Open Letter Regarding Air Service and the Fly SCE Fund

Strong air service is not a luxury for our region—it is a necessity. It is one of the most direct ways we stay connected to national markets, attract investment, retain talent, and remain competitive in an increasingly connected economy.

State College Regional Airport is a regional asset, and when air service grows, the benefits extend well beyond Centre County. Businesses and residents rely on the airport for efficient access to major hubs, customers, suppliers, and opportunities that would otherwise require hours of additional travel. That accessibility matters when recruiting employees, meeting clients, supporting healthcare needs, and growing local companies.

Air service growth supports the industries that drive our regional economy. It strengthens Penn State's ability to attract research partners, conferences, and visitors. It supports healthcare systems that depend on visiting specialists and time-sensitive travel. It fuels tourism, outdoor recreation, and hospitality by making our region easier to reach for visitors who want to experience our communities, trails, and events.

However, air service growth does not happen by accident. Airlines respond to demand, performance, and regional commitment. Business travel patterns, community engagement, and targeted investment all play a role in securing new routes, improving schedules, and sustaining existing service.

That is why regional support is so important.

The Fly SCE Fund, administered through the Chamber of Business and Industry of Centre County, exists for one purpose: to support air service growth and sustainability at State College Regional Airport. Contributions to Fly SCE help demonstrate regional commitment, support air service development efforts, and strengthen our case with airline partners.

This is not just an airport initiative—it is an economic development strategy for our entire region. When we invest together, we improve connectivity for all counties we serve. We reduce travel barriers, expand opportunity, and help ensure our rural communities remain visible and competitive on a national stage.

I encourage you to visit the Fly State College Fund website at <https://flystatecollege.com/> and consider making a contribution. Your support sends a clear message that our business community and residents understand the value of air service and is committed to growing it.

Together, we can strengthen regional access, support local businesses, and invest in long-term economic vitality.



Sincerely,

Ralph W. Stewart

Interim Executive Director

State College Regional Airport/Centre County Airport Authority