

## **LCC's Redbird takes flight**

In the Spring of 2011, Lenoir Community College's Aviation Management and Pilot Technology Program took flight with its first full-motion simulator. A dedication to training the best and brightest pilot candidates resulted in the college's decision to purchase an FAA approved Redbird FMX full-motion flight simulator. Currently, LCC is the only college or flight school in eastern North Carolina to operate such a simulator.

Jeff Jennings, LCC's Aviation Management and Career Pilot Technology program chair, uses the simulator to help potential pilots earn up to 73 hours towards their certifications. One of his favorite things about the simulator located at the LCC Center for Aviation Education at the Kinston Regional Jetport is the pause button.

"If a student isn't getting something, I can just press pause ... and work it out with them," he said. "You don't have that option when you're up in the air." The simulator provides a much more cost-effective way to get air time built up.

Using the simulator costs only \$75 per flight hour including instructor. The RedBird has the ability to immerse the student in four different types of aircraft, as well as different weather conditions. Complete terrain and airport database information within the program means students can take off and land from almost anywhere. Multiple monitors give the pilot more than a 200-degree view of their surroundings. The simulator's all-electric platform helps provide a more realistic and consistent X, Y and Z-axis movement. "It pretty much covers everything," Jennings said. "It's a great piece of equipment."

In addition to the simulator training, LCC Aviation students also perform flight training in small single-engine aircraft. The program is designed to provide students with academic knowledge in the classroom and transfer that knowledge into the aircraft simultaneously. Hands-on flight training is paramount for professional and recreational pilot applicants.

After the completion of all flight training, students will have earned three FAA certificates and/or ratings. First is the Private Pilot, followed by the Instrument Rating, and finally the Commercial Pilot.

For more on the Aviation Management and Pilot Technology Program, call Jennings at 522-1735 or email [jjennings@lenoircc.edu](mailto:jjennings@lenoircc.edu).