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WICHITA METRO
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

NEWS RELEASE

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Southwest Airlines Announces Official Launch in Wichita

WICHITA, KS – At a news conference today, Governor Sam Brownback, U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, and Congressman Mike Pompeo joined Mayor Carl Brewer, County Commissioner Dave Unruh and business leaders from the Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce to announce the Southwest Airlines fares and flight schedule to officially launch service in Wichita. Southwest Airlines will begin flight service at Mid-Continent Airport on June 2, 2013.

“Having Southwest Airlines enter the Wichita market is a dream come true,” said Berry. “For so many years, we have been trying to put the pieces in place. The Chamber would like to thank our public partners – Governor Brownback and Legislative Leaders in Topeka, the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County for all their work on the Kansas Affordable Airfares Program. We know having affordable flights and many flight choices are essential for keeping the cost of business competitive.”

Wichita becomes the 85th destination on the route map of Southwest Airlines. Southwest starts service with a total of five daily flights offering nonstop service to Dallas, Chicago Midway, and Las Vegas. Southwest will assume all flying from AirTran Airways, its wholly owned subsidiary, with AirTran’s operations at Wichita Mid-Continent Airport fully converting to Southwest Airlines.

To celebrate the new Wichita service, Southwest announced a fare sale of \$89* one-way between Wichita and Dallas (Love Field), as well as \$109* one-way between Wichita and both Chicago Midway and Las Vegas.

Southwest Airlines is in its 42nd year of service and employs nearly 46,000 employees. Southwest is the nation’s largest carrier in terms of originating passengers boarded, and including wholly-owned subsidiary, AirTran Airways, operates the largest fleet of Boeing aircraft in the world to serve 97 destinations in 41 states. With 39 consecutive years of profitability, the people of Southwest operate more than 3,100 flights a day and serve communities around 78 airports in Southwest’s network of domestic destinations. Southwest Airlines’ frequent flights and low fares are available only at southwest.com

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