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Phoenix Service

Allegiant Air recently announced they will initiate service to Phoenix beginning October 25. The flights will operate Thursday and Sunday and connect Sioux Falls travelers to Phoenix through Mesa, Arizona's Williams Gateway Airport using 130-seat MD-80 jet airliners.

"We are extremely pleased to again expand the Allegiant brand of low-fare, nonstop jet service to the Sioux Falls community," said Maurice Gallagher, Jr., president, CEO of Allegiant Air. "This is an exciting new addition for our airline and our customers as we launch the only scheduled nonstop service between Sioux Falls and Arizona."

The twice weekly flights depart Sioux Falls at 8:35 PM, arriving in Mesa at 9:25 PM. Return service leaves Mesa at 3:25 PM and arrive Sioux Falls at 8:00 PM.

The service announcement comes after market research and local input through an online poll conducted on this website.

Introductory fares on the new service start at \$99 plus tax each way, subject to availability and restrictions. Allegiant Air is also partnering with resorts and hotels in the Phoenix, Scottsdale, Mesa, Tempe and Sedona areas to offer package deals. Contact Allegiant Air at 702-505-8888 or www.allegiantair.com for details.

Allegiant Air currently operates from Sioux Falls to Las Vegas year-round with seasonal flights to Orlando.

July Boarding Record

With 36,126 passengers boarding in July, the Sioux Falls Regional Airport saw a new monthly record set. The previous record for July was over 1,000 passengers fewer and was set in 2001. July's boardings bring the year-to-date total to 222,838. This is 2.6% over the same period in the record-setting 2006.

United Express led local airlines with a 38.9% market share. They were followed by Northwest/Northwest AirlinK at 35.7%, Delta Connection at 13.9% and Allegiant Air at 11.4%.