

TRAVERSING THE GLOBE

Why Fly Lansing???

If you don't use it, you lose it.

You're planning your vacation or business trip and you plan to fly to your destination out of any mid-Michigan airport. You look at prices out of Lansing, Detroit, Flint, and Grand Rapids and find the airfare out of Lansing isn't necessarily the lowest. How much is it really going to cost you not to use Capital City Airport in Lansing?

The first cost that comes to mind is gasoline. With prices at the pump close to \$3 per gallon, gasoline has become a real cost. As an example, it will cost your department about \$66 extra for you to drive to Detroit when Michigan State University is reimbursing your mileage.

Second, the cost of parking has to be considered. Capital City Airport offers Michigan State University employees a 50% discount on long-term parking. This discount is for business or leisure (pleasure) travel. None of the other airports offer MSU any parking discounts. So, you pay \$3.50 per day versus \$7.00 minimum per day. A weeklong trip would cost you an additional \$24.50 just in parking. However, if you park in the structured parking at Detroit's Northwest Terminal, you will pay \$16.00 per day making your parking costs even higher.

Third, your time needs to be taken into consideration. How much are you worth per hour? What are you willing to give up spending the extra time traveling to/from the airport? In addition, you will have to arrive earlier for your flight departing from Detroit versus Lansing. If you depart from Lansing, you can arrive fewer minutes before your flight and have plenty of time to check in and clear security. If you check in on-line and have no bags to check through to your destination, you merely need to clear security.

While many of us check in for flights on-line no matter what the originating airport, Lansing is a small enough airport that you don't have all of the people traffic. This brings up another point: traffic on the roads. Air travel has been proven to be safer than driving on the highway. Why not start and finish your trip from home?

Arriving back from your trip in Lansing, you're almost there. No long commute home on the highway or construction delays are waiting for you. Only you can decide how much your time is worth and the missed activities associated with flying out of an airport other than Lansing. Don't sell yourself short.

Recently, Northwest Airlines decided to suspend its only direct flights between Minneapolis and Lansing from July 3 – August 21, 2006. While this will only be for 6 weeks, it will be during the middle of the summer when many of us are taking vacations or traveling for MSU. Looking back less than a year ago, Northwest Airlines provided 2 flights daily to Minneapolis, 8 flights daily to Detroit, and 4 weekday and 3 weekend flights to Washington, D.C. Today, Northwest Airlines provides 1 flight to Minneapolis each day and 6 flights daily to Detroit. By not choosing Capital City Airport, we are telling the airlines that our airport isn't needed.

So to recap, traveling from Capital City Airport, our hometown airport, will save you \$\$\$\$\$ (MONEY!). Your department will save money by flying guests of Michigan State University in to Lansing. Your time is priceless. Further, you will be keeping our airport a viable travel option. Next time you're taking a trip, think Fly Lansing and save time and money.

Fly Lansing and Win!

Drawing to take place each month.

Each month, beginning in June through the end of 2006, a \$100 Northwest Airlines Travel Credit Voucher will be given away. Travelers may qualify by submitting their boarding passes for their Lansing flights on Northwest Airlines. Boarding passes need to be submitted to the MSU Travel Office, 370 Administration. Travel must take place between June 1 and December 31, 2006. Notification will be sent out via the Travel Office List Serve.

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by Debbie Gulliver, University Travel Manager

May 2006

The Howard Johnson...

New name... Beautifully renovated.

If you haven't visited the Howard Johnson Hotel on Trowbridge, you've missed a diamond in the rough. Located at the interchange of US 127 and I-496, the hotel is within a mile of the MSU campus. Recently renovated, the hotel offers more than just a welcoming and comfortable place to rest your head at night; the staff stands ready to accommodate your every wish

The Howard Johnson offers 55 completely rejuvenated rooms in addition to a beautiful indoor pool and whirlpool, fitness area, small meeting room, in addition to a social area filled with overstuffed furniture, palm trees, and big screen television. Complimentary high speed internet is available in each room. Deluxe continental breakfast is also included.

The Howard Johnson, East Lansing, is offering a Big Ten rate of \$69 per night with a free upgrade to a suite at your request when available upon arrival. To guarantee a suite, the rate per night is \$89. If you have a guest coming to MSU, the hotel will direct invoice your MSU department.

To contact the Howard Johnson, please call 517 351-5500 or send an e-mail to jw_howardjohnson@yahoo.com.

New Limousine Service...

Serving all of Michigan.

Classic Taxi recently opened for business and is ready to serve Michigan State University faculty, staff, and visitors. To make a reservation, please call 886-5589 or toll free 888-655-8180. They will also be waiting at Capital City Airport to provide service to arriving passengers. Classic Taxi will soon be posted on the MSU Travel Office website at <http://ctrl.msu.edu/travel>. Look under the Limousine tab for further information.

Please direct any suggestions or comments to the University Travel Manager, Debbie Gulliver, at telephone (517) 355-0343, or email gulliver5@ctrl.msu.edu or fax (517) 432-4656.

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer.

MSU Travel Discounts...

Where to find them.

There are many discounts available to travelers if you are willing to take the time to look. Start by visiting <http://ctrl.msu.edu/travel> or go to the Michigan State University home page at <http://www.msu.edu> and do a search for "Travel". You'll find many links, but choose the University Travel Office link. On the University Travel Office website, you will find an alphabetical list of travel related topics. Looking for a coupon for discount parking at Lansing Airport? Choose "Capital City Airport" and follow the instructions. Do you need to rent a car? Choose "Car Rental" and you'll be linked with the National Car Rental website and our discount program. On-line coupons are available, also. Are you interested in saving money on your airline ticket? Choose airfare and learn about our business travel discounts and save further by booking your ticket on nwa.com. Follow the instructions to join CorpNet Direct and you'll be all set the next time you have to book a business trip on behalf of Michigan State University.

In addition to learning about travel savings programs, you also have information about per diem rates, mileage reimbursement rates, foreign exchange rates, and MSU Travel policies and procedures.

Please share this information with your co-workers and travelers within your department and college. Encourage others to become members of the Travel List Serve so they can receive this newsletter and travel updates that affect MSU travel arrangers and travelers.