

# JEFF MEHLING

## Working His Way to the Top: Jeff Mehling: A Story of Flying High

Graduate: Class of 2000    Occupation: Corporate Pilot    By Jonathan Russell

A graduate of 2000, Jeff Mehling flies a plane for Kimball International! His duties when he goes to work include safely transporting company personnel or customers to and from various locations throughout North America. After attending Indiana State University for four years, Jeff earned his bachelors degree in professional aviation flight technology and aviation administration. He also earned his associate degree in general aviation flight. After college, Jeff received a job as a flight instructor in the city of Lexington, Kentucky, from December of 2004 to May of 2006.

Some of Jeff's supreme highlights and greatest achievements in high school include making three trips to state for pole vault. Jeff still presently holds the Forest Park record for the highest pole vault in the school history. "When you find your passion," Jeff states, "don't let anything stand in your way. Anything really is possible as long as you set your mind to it."

One of Jeff's hobbies is playing golf. He says, "One of the perks of the job is when we have time at our destination to play golf. This is really nice when it's snowing in southern Indiana but warm and sunny in southern California!"

A typical Kimball International work day for Jeff includes watching the weather to determine it is bad or good in the areas you are departing for, deciding if you need a fuel stop between your two destinations, and finally making sure the plane is fully stocked with the normal accessories. The accessories consist of coffee, soft drinks, ice, snacks, and also reading material for the people that are flying to read. Jeff typically flies out of the Huntingburg, Indiana, airport.

Jeff craziest moment that happened to him while in flight was when he had to do a precautionary landing because the engine wasn't running correctly. He states, "That it was a good decision because the maintenance person told me that I was moments from having engine failure." Also he had an instrumentation malfunction after takeoff while flying through the clouds. At the time he was temporarily perplexed but then his training took control, and he was able to get out of the situation and land safely with the few flight instruments he had left.

Jeff's best suggestion for our students here back here at Forest Park is as follows: "Absorb everything you can even if it seems trivial at the time. You will be amazed how every little piece of knowledge comes in handy when you least expect it."