

QUESTION:
WHAT SHOULD A TRIP FROM HATTIESBURG, MS
TO MADISON, MS COST?

For those of you commencing your readership of the series with this report, you may wish to read the introductory materials in the initial report [What Does A Trip From Hattiesburg, MS, To Gulfport, MS Cost?](#) That report provides background information concerning the actual costs for the past 17 months of an airplane N777AQ leased by President Saunders for 60 months.

USM has identified a total actual cost of \$591,231.71 for 30 round trips during the past 17 months of operations. Based on USM's numbers, the actual cost per round trip is \$19,707.72 (total actual costs divided by number of trips). Alternatively, USM reports a total of 114 passengers over the 17 month period. The cost per passenger round trip flight would be \$5,186.24 (total actual cost divided by the number of passengers).

Mystery Passenger(s) Flown To Madison, MS And Back

On April 16, 2009, Mystery Passenger(s) flew round trip from Hattiesburg, MS, to Madison, MS on airplane N777AQ. The Interdepartmental Invoice shows the flight charged to the "President's Office." The flight time was .9 hours. No stated purpose was provided on the Interdepartmental Invoice.

See, Interdepartmental Invoice inserted below:

INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOICE THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI (FOR CAMPUS USE ONLY)					Original _____ Department Copy _____ Office Use Only _____
				Date: <u>4/18/2008</u>	
CHARGE: <u>President's Office</u> <u>REVENUE CODE</u>		CREDIT: <u>Airplane Operations</u> <u>REVENUE CODE</u>			
<u>5000</u> <u>200-0001</u> <u>600</u> <u>POST TRAVEL</u>		<u>5000</u> <u>200-4100</u> <u>600</u> <u>POST TRAVEL</u>			
QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION OF GOODS OR SERVICES, INCLUDING DATES OF SERVICE	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT		
1	10.8 hour round trip flight to Madison, Mo	720.00	720.00		
Trip date April 18, 2008					
		TOTAL →	720.00		
SPR APPROVAL, IF REQUIRED _____ DATE _____		PREPST APPROVAL, IF REQUIRED _____ DATE _____			

ACCOUNTING INFORMATION	ACCOUNT	FUND	DEPT	PROGRAM	PROJECT/STANT	AMOUNT
BUDGET STRINGS TO CHARGE FOR SERVICES OR MATERIALS RECEIVED	804021	10H10	100001	00000		720.00
AUTHORIZED DEPARTMENT SIGNATURE DATE _____						
BUDGET STRINGS TO CREDIT FOR SALES OF SERVICES OR MATERIALS	804021	10H10	100011	00000		720.00
AUTHORIZED DEPARTMENT SIGNATURE DATE _____						

JOURNAL NUMBER: _____
 JOURNAL DATE: _____

Signed and sealed: Controller's Office, Box 3044

We all know that costs of higher education are skyrocketing. Is anyone in authority holding administrators accountable? IHL members blessed the purchase of the plane. IHL members are enjoying the use of the plane (see past and future reports in this series.) So, do not expect the IHL to hold President Saunders accountable for this extravagant expenditure of taxpayer and student money. A corollary is to expect costs of higher education to continue to unnecessarily increase.

Stay tuned to usmnews.net for cost analyses of the remaining 27 flights aboard President Saunders' plane.