

The Landing

For more information on the pilot pay shortage, read "Airline Pilot Shortage—Myths, Facts & Solutions," page 28, and visit www.alpa.org/pilotshortage.



Spin the Wheel

You just earned a college aviation degree and, along the way, accumulated student loans and expenses comparable to what a law or medical student spends on education.

Now it's time to spin the wheel regarding your career choice. Do you take a job earning **\$23,000** a year flying for a fee-for-departure airline? Or do you opt for another career? According to salary.com, the median starting salary for a registered nurse is nearly **\$64,000** a year, and a new sales rep earns more than **\$54,000**.

You don't need a finance degree to see that, for those entering the job market, the looming airline pilot shortage really comes down to a pilot pay shortage. **ALPA is working to enhance starting compensation for those entering the profession and provide a clear career path for all pilots.**



What path would you choose?

Spend **\$150,000–\$200,000** earning a college aviation degree, accumulating the required flight hours, and acquiring the necessary ratings.

Earn a starting salary of **\$23,000** flying for a fee-for-departure airline that offers no clear career path.

Make a living wage by choosing **another profession** that allows you to begin paying off your student loans.

PAY DAY

