

► **JOB FAIR HELD**

*AAR Corp. held a job fair in Winston-Salem in hopes of hiring mechanics that are being laid off by North State Aviation.*



COURTESY PHOTO

## **OUT-OF-STATE FIRM SWOOPS IN TO HIRE LAID-OFF NORTH STATE AVIATION EMPLOYEES**

Wood Dale, Illinois-based aviation services firm AAR Corp. held a job fair at a Winston-Salem hotel this week, with hopes of hiring more than 150 aircraft mechanics that are being laid off by North State Aviation at the Smith Reynolds Airport.

Greg Dellinger, director of talent acquisition strategy at AAR Corp., told TBJ his firm expected to interview candidates at the Fairfield Inn on Thursday, March 30, for positions to maintain, repair and overhaul aircraft at six company locations in Indianapolis, Oklahoma City, Miami, Fla., Duluth, Minn., Lake Charles, La., as well as a "brand new" 240,000-square-foot repair station in Rockford, Ill. Hourly wages for the new AAR Corp. aircraft mechanics will range from \$18 to \$19 per hour for a "freshly minted" employee up to more than \$26 per hour for inspector-level workers, he said.

Dellinger said he organized the job fair

upon hearing that North State Aviation was laying off 345 workers and closing its Winston-Salem facility after losing business with United Airlines, its main customer. "This is a very specialized workforce and a very honorable workforce," he said. "When I saw this number (345), I thought 'let me come to town,' to sort of find a way to triage the situation." He plans to interview candidates over the next three to four weeks before offering positions.

The publicly traded company generates sales of around \$2 billion annually and has a workforce of 4,500 employees worldwide.

Dellinger added that AAR Corp is a direct competitor to HAECO Americas, which began interviewing North State Aviation employees this week.

- Katie Arcieri