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**WEST STAR AVIATION NAMED GRAND JUNCTION BUSINESS OF THE YEAR**

**Grand Junction, CO, February 1, 2012-** West Star Aviation has been named Business of the Year by the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce. The announcement was made on Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, at the annual awards banquet held at Two Rivers Convention Center in Grand Junction. West Star was chosen by past winners of the award, and is being recognized for their contributions to the local community.

With over 300 current employees, West Star Aviation's Grand Junction (GJT) facility ranks among the largest private employers in the Grand Valley. West Star supports Community Hospital, Hospice & Palliative Care of Western Colorado and United Way. West Star also serves as a sponsor of the Grand Junction Air Show and contributes to both the West Slope Honor Flight and Palisade Olde Fashioned Christmas community events.

"With their numerous contributions not only to our community, but to our economy as well, West Star Aviation was an obvious choice for this award," says Diane Schwenke, President and CEO, Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce. "We are honored to have them as a part of our community."

West Star Aviation GJT has also been recognized as a Silver Partner of the Colorado Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) in 2011. By continuing their commitment to the environment, West Star climbed from a Bronze Achiever 2010, to an ELP Silver Partner.

West Star Aviation, Inc. specializes in the repair and maintenance of airframes, windows, and engines, as well as major modifications, avionics installation and repair, interior refurbishment, surplus avionics sales, accessory services, paint and parts.

In addition to its facilities in East Alton, IL; Grand Junction, CO; Columbia, SC; and Dallas, TX, West Star Aviation runs the maintenance operations at Aspen-Pitkin County Airport in Aspen, CO and at Spirit of St. Louis Airport in Chesterfield, MO. The company also provides complete FBO services for transient aircraft at its newly remodeled East Alton and Grand Junction facilities. West Star Aviation, Inc. is an industry leader in technical experience and expertise while providing world-class customer services in all the organization's divisions. For more information visit <http://www.weststaraviation.com> or call 800-922-2421.

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**For Immediate Release**