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**Delta State University appoints Dr. Joseph Childs as Dean of the College of Business and Aviation**

**CLEVELAND, Miss. —** Delta State University is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Joseph (Joe) Childs as the new Dean of the College of Business and Aviation (COBA), effective July 1.

Childs brings over 20 years of distinguished academic leadership experience in the fields of business and aviation. His recent roles include Executive Director of Innovation Projects and Director of Aviation Programs at Indiana Wesleyan University. Throughout his career, Childs has developed and led FAA Part 141-certified aviation programs, overseen academic operations for thousands of business students, and played an instrumental role in program development, fundraising, and accreditation efforts.

“Dr. Childs’ broad and innovative experience in both business and aviation education makes him exceptionally well-suited to lead the College of Business and Aviation,” said Dr. Leslie Griffin, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. “His vision for academic excellence and economic impact in the Mississippi Delta—and beyond—aligns perfectly with Delta State’s strategic priorities.”

Effective immediately, Childs will serve as Interim Dean of the College on a half-time basis, ensuring a smooth transition before assuming full leadership in July.

Childs said, “What sparked my interest in this role is the mission of Delta State University and its College of Business and Aviation. Our strategic location positions us as a key resource to enhance the educational and economic opportunities of residents in this region and beyond. The strengths and dedication of our faculty, combined with the resources of the Center for Business and Entrepreneurial Research and our broader networks, provide a strong foundation for delivering positive gains. Beyond education, we serve as a vital resource for economic development and community impact. I envision a future where the Mississippi Delta becomes a hub of innovators, creatives, and entrepreneurs to launch and grow their businesses.”

Delta State University extends its sincere gratitude to the search committee for their thoughtful and dedicated efforts throughout the selection process. The committee was chaired by Dr. Lisa Sandifer and included Christie Sledge, Neil Gong, Dr. Richard Tremmel, Shelia Millican, Hayden Kirkhart, Mark Hargett, Keshawn Jennings, and Lisa Giger.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Childs to the Delta State community and in supporting him as he begins this exciting new chapter in leadership.

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**About Delta State University:**Delta State University is a four-year public institution whose nearly 2,700 students come from most U.S. states and more than 45 countries. Acknowledging its beginning as a teacher’s college, the University sustains excellence in teacher education while continuing to expand offerings in traditional as well as unique fields of study. Programs such as those available through the Delta Music Institute, the Commercial Aviation Department, and the Center for Interdisciplinary Geospatial Information highlight the University’s commitment to meeting the evolving needs of the students it serves with world-leading, industry-acclaimed programs. Situated in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, Delta State offers top-notch academic programs in business, arts, sciences, nursing, education, and more. DSU Athletics has won 14 national championships, 70 conference championships, and 37 regional titles.