

JetBlue CEO talks Syracuse flights, airline fees

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SYRACUSE - JetBlue Airways Corp. (NASDAQ: JBLU) CEO David Barger said Wednesday he hopes to add more flights from Syracuse in the future.

JetBlue currently flies from Syracuse's Hancock International Airport to New York City, Orlando, and Fort Lauderdale. The Fort Lauderdale route will end in January, however.

Barger said during his Wednesday lecture at Onondaga Community College that the airline could add flights to Boston, Florida, and Washington, D.C. at some point. He did not give details, however.

Barger was the first speaker in this year's Famous Entrepreneurs Series, a lecture series aimed at sparking more entrepreneurship in the region.

As for the recent spate of new fees airlines throughout the country have been adding, Barger said many of them are probably here to stay. Even though the price of oil has eased, airlines are now dealing with sagging demand thanks to a slowdown in the broader economy.

"We struggle with it," Barger said of the fees. "An aviation ticket used to mean something a little different not that long ago."

In August, JetBlue began charging \$7 for a pillow and blanket on flights longer than two hours.

For more on this story, see the Nov. 21 issue of The Central New York Business Journal.