



### **“Working in Memphis”**

#### **TCTC Graduate Achieves Success With Federal Express**

*He put on his blue suede shoes and boarded a plane. He touched down in the land of the Delta Blues, and he is not coming back anytime soon. Wallace Cundiff, a Champion High School graduate in 1980, and program completer at the TCTC is the Avionics Technical Adviser for Federal Express. The headquarters are in Memphis, Tennessee.*

After finishing his sophomore year at Champion High School, Cundiff enrolled in the Industrial Electricity program at the TCTC. He believed that a sound knowledge of the fundamentals of electricity would jumpstart his future career. He said, “The TCTC was the right choice for me. I am a hands on learner and I enjoyed the practical applications of our lab mockups.. Throughout my career, I have done technical work and the TCTC prepared me with the basic understandings necessary for growth. This has made a difference for me.”

After graduation, Cundiff enlisted in the Marine Corp and received training as an Air Traffic Control Technician. He received an Honorable Discharge in 1985, and he was employed as an Avionics Technician for first for Henson airlines later for Delta Airlines. He was promoted to lead technician at Delta in 1999. He accepted his present position with Federal Express in 2006.

Federal Express uses Boeing aircraft to move packages across the country. Cundiff is responsible for providing technical assistance to both FedEx Maintenance personnel and Flight Crew members. He researches parts, tooling, and safety procedures to ensure on time performance and to make sure the planes pass quality control inspections.

When asked about the most challenging aspect of his job, Cundiff said that no two days are the same. “You have to know the various aircraft and what is required to fix them. It is my responsibility to reduce down time for the aircraft. Our company has built a reputation on service to our customers.”

As a high school student at the TCTC in 1980 Cundiff did not envision the specific nature of his future career, but he says that adaptability is the key to progress. “You can’t stay in a comfort zone. You have to keep an open mind and try new things.” He believes that perseverance in the face of adversity is a critical attribute. Things don’t always go your way, but you can’t quit. You need to fall back on your education and your experience. Most people in leadership positions have positive attitudes.”

Cundiff and his wife Barbara have three children and he enjoys coaching youth baseball. Although he has lived out of the area for almost all of his adult life, he has never lost his affinity for the Cleveland Browns. His den is filled with the team memorabilia. He signed his most recent e-mail-**Go Browns**.

The TCTC remains neutral in the choice of football teams, but we root strongly for the career success of our former students. Wallace Cundiff is not only *Walking in Memphis*, he is working there as well. This is what it’s all about. **Go Wallace**.