For Christian Childs, even the sky is not the limit.

Eager to move on from his small town in South Carolina and in a different direction than his post-military job in police work, Christian Child’s path led him to Texas. Following a lead, he quickly landed an entry-level position in aviation operations in the Dallas area in 1999. Having spent years in the cockpit with his dad, a hobby pilot and gaining even more experience around aircraft in the Marines, it’s easy to see why Childs gravitated toward aviation and moved steadily through the operations ranks.

But his pursuit of a college degree--- along with his elemental drive for success—helped Child’s career truly take off and take on an impressive scope of responsibility. Promoted this year to airport manager for Alliance Air and Aviation Services at Fort Worth Alliance Airport, Childs began with Alliance as an operations specialist in 2001, handling aircraft maintenance such as fueling, parking and servicing. He moved up to lead operations specialist a few years later, and as that position evolved and expanded, his duties grew to include airport management. Things were moving forward, just not up.

When the recession hit in 2008, Childs got serious about going back to college. “With the downturn in the economy, and the fact that I basically hit the glass ceiling in my job, I knew I needed my degree,” he recalled.

Childs chose Tarrant County College to start the process. “The TCC system offered so many benefits—lots of course options online, affordability and accommodating advisors who helped me navigate my core courses while working full-time.” Tom Harris, president of Alliance Air and Aviation Services and whose career with the Hillwood organization spans more than 24 years, praised Child’s tenacity and work ethic. “Christian is a great example of a young man who has worked extremely hard to find a way to carry a six- to 12-hour class load to earn a degree while working full-time. It’s quite an accomplishment and somewhat painful.”

Harris added, “Christian began in operations and is now our airport manager, which is a huge responsibility with an impressive spectrum of duties. He’s in charge of managing the airport’s day-to-day operations, ensuring the proper maintenance and safety of aircraft at Alliance and compliance with many federal regulations, working as liaison with the FAA and area residents on noise and other topics, meeting with the City of Fort Worth and helping with the logistics of the annual Alliance Air Show, to mention a few.”
Harris praised the TCC system as well, having a long-standing relationship of 15 years, most recently as the key player from Hillwood to open the TCC Northwest Campus Center of Excellence for Aviation, Transportation and Logistics.

With a strong foundation at TCC, Childs is on target to earn his Bachelor of Science in Applied Science in Business Administration, with a minor in Management from Tarleton State University. TCC was a perfect launching pad to begin an ambitious journey toward earning a degree and moving up in an extremely demanding career.