

## ***2016 Florida Aviation Awards***

*Aaron Smith, State Aviation Manager, and Jim Halley, Aviation System Manager, announced the winners of the 2016 Florida Aviation Awards at the Florida Airports Council Conference in July in Bonita Springs.*

### **Aviation Professional**

#### **Chris Curry, C.M.**

Thomas Chris Curry, C.M., was appointed Director of Aviation for Tallahassee International Airport (formerly Tallahassee Regional Airport) in January 2014. Previously, he served as Executive Director of the Collier County Airport Authority; Executive Director of Gary/Chicago International Airport; Airspace, Procedure Design Project Manager for the Boeing Company; and Air Traffic Controller in the U.S. Air Force. He also sits on the board of directors for the Florida Airports Council.

He earned a bachelor's degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in professional aeronautics.

Under Chris Curry's leadership, the airport has completed numerous improvements, and was designated an international airport in June 2015.

Chris Curry's passion, innovation, and focus on customer service set him apart from other aviation professionals. His visionary and strategic approach to building the future of the airport will benefit Tallahassee for years to come.

### **Distinguished Service**

#### **Ted Soliday, C.M.**

Until his retirement in April 2016, Ted Soliday served as executive director of Naples Airport Authority, a position he held since 1994. As executive director, Ted managed Naples Municipal Airport, one of the busiest general aviation airports in the country. He oversaw daily operations, up to 80 employees, and an annual budget of \$20.2 million.

Ted's aviation background and experience spans nearly 50 years as a pilot, air traffic controller, educator, planner, and manager. The impact of his work has been far-reaching in the aviation industry as well as in his community.

Ted has received many honors and awards during his career. Under his leadership, Naples Municipal Airport has also received numerous awards.

Recently retired, Ted Soliday leaves behind a successful heritage that remains widespread and influential and will continue to impact the aviation industry for years to come.

## **Distinguished Service**

### **Lauren Stover**

Lauren Stover, former Miami-Dade Aviation Department Assistant Director in charge of Public Safety and Security for Miami International Airport (MIA) and the county's general aviation airports, retired in May 2016, after 33 years of service to Miami-Dade County.

Lauren was appointed Assistant Aviation Director in 2006, becoming the first woman in the history of MIA to direct the department's day-to-day security, police, and fire/rescue operations. She has worked with virtually all key law enforcement agencies as the head of homeland and aviation security events and issues at the second-busiest airport in the U.S. for international travelers and the busiest for international freight.

Lauren was recruited in 2003 by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to build the first comprehensive public affairs operation within the TSA for the southeastern United States and to serve as chief media spokesperson for more than 60 airports.

## **General Aviation Airport**

### **Page Field Airport**

Page Field is a thriving general aviation airport located in Fort Myers in southwest Florida. Owned and operated by the Lee County Port Authority, it is a designated reliever to Southwest Florida International Airport.

Page Field has worked diligently to maintain strict safety and security standards, and the airport remains committed to providing the general aviation community and business travelers with safe and efficient operations, convenience, and unparalleled service.

Page Field Airport focuses on maximizing service to customers, financial stability and optimum use of resources, compliance with state and federal rules and regulations, compliance with the master plan, and completeness and financial feasibility of Joint Automated Capital Improvement Program data.

We congratulate Barry Bratton, A.A.E., and the staff of Page Field and the Lee County Port Authority.

## **Commercial Service Airport**

### **Punta Gorda Airport**

Punta Gorda Airport has made many significant safety enhancements over the past year.

With the rapidly increasing flight operations at the Punta Gorda Airport by Allegiant Airlines and the general aviation community, Punta Gorda Airport has continued its commitment to safety and has demonstrated in its actions by instituting new programs and upgrading facilities.

With the airline's expanding presence at the airport, direct flights are now available to more than 30 different destinations. Punta Gorda Airport is currently on track to exceed one million total passengers to fly in and out of the airport in 2016.

We congratulate Gary Quill, James Parish, and the staff of Punta Gorda Airport and the Charlotte County Airport Authority.

## **General Aviation Airport Project**

### **Approach Road and Taxiway E/E1**

#### **Cecil Airport**

Prior to 2015, all of the existing facilities or available parcels were located in the northwest quadrant of Cecil Airport. In an effort to increase available aviation development sites, stimulate the economy and create jobs, the Jacksonville Aviation Authority invested in the development of the northeast quadrant.

The goal was to provide new airside/landside access and utility infrastructure to the site in order to attract potential developers/tenants by minimizing costs and reducing design and permitting schedules. The 150-acre parcel has been designated for facilities providing air cargo or MRO services. The project provides landside and airside access to an area located immediately northeast of the Runway 18L end. The stormwater and utilities infrastructure were also designed to accommodate development.

We congratulate Cecil Airport, the Jacksonville Airport Authority, RS&H Inc., and BGCO Inc.

## **Commercial Service Airport Project**

### **Runway 7/25 Rehabilitation**

#### **Gainesville Regional Airport**

Runway 7/25 at Gainesville Regional Airport is a secondary runway used by general aviation and corporate aircraft. The original construction was performed by the U.S. Army in the 1940s. Prior to this rehabilitation project, the asphalt was in poor condition. The runway was last rehabilitated approximately 40 years ago. Traditional rehabilitation by removing all of the asphalt pavement was beyond the project budget and would have significantly diminished the pavement section strength. Full-depth reconstruction was too costly, and the project was not

eligible for AIP funding. Preserving the runway's weight-bearing capacity was important because of a possible future extension of the runway.

We congratulate Gainesville Regional Airport, the Gainesville-Alachua County Regional Airport Authority, AECOM Technical Services, Inc., and V.E. Whitehurst & Sons, Inc.