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News Release

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WCAA Announces New V.P of Human Resources

Gale LaRoche, of Chesterfield, MI, has been named the new Vice President of Human Resources for the Wayne County Airport Authority at Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport.

LaRoche brings more than 20 years of human resources experience including working in the auto supplier industry to her new position with the Authority. She has earned an Associate of Business Management degree from Macomb Community College, a BA in Human Resources from Concordia University, a MSA with a concentration in Human Resources from Central Michigan University and a Juris Doctorate from Michigan State University College of Law.

With the assistance of a staff of fifteen, Ms. LaRoche is responsible for overseeing the Authority's hiring practices, employment law, labor relations and compensation issues, for Detroit Metropolitan and Willow Run Airports.

"We are very fortunate that Gale has accepted this appointment," said Lester Robinson, CEO, Wayne County Airport Authority. "Her background in the human resources field and union experience affords us an ideal opportunity to consider applying the private sector's best practices to our organization."

What convinced her to leave the private sector to come to work for the Airport Authority? "I consider the new organizational structure of the airport, changing from a government run operation to an authority with more of a business-like approach, to be a challenge...to take a new direction," said Ms. LaRoche. "My experience building human resource divisions and my strong union experience seemed to be a good fit. Besides, I've always liked aviation. My father is a private pilot."

Posted on the wall directly across from Gale's desk is a handwritten list of goals...currently numbering 15, but which she says is continuously growing. In fact, she encourages her staff to add to the list if they see an area where improvements can be made. "I'm particularly interested in streamlining the hiring process, reducing paperwork and using technology to our best advantage," said LaRoche.

LaRoche is a member of the Society of Human Resources Management (SHRM), the State Bar Association and an advisor to the Board of Vista Maria, a campus for at-risk adolescent females.

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