



DETROIT METRO • WILLOW RUN
WAYNE COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY

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News Release

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Airport Authority Honored by MDOT

The Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA) received special recognition from a Bureau of the Michigan Department of Transportation. The Bureau of Aeronautics and Freight Services named WCAA *Airport Sponsor of the Year*.

The plaque, presented February 5 at the Michigan Airport Conference reads, "...in recognition of excellent service provided to aviation through the transformation of Detroit Metropolitan Airport into a world-class international airport, the development of numerous safety-enhancement projects at Willow Run Airport, and the implementation of state-of-the-art environmental protection measures and neighborhood compatibility programs at both airports."

The walnut plaque is signed by both Director Rob Abent and Airports Division Administrator Rick Hammond.

"At the state level, we have watched Detroit Metro Airport undergo a dramatic transformation into one of the world's premier air transport hubs. It is consistently voted as one of the best international airport facilities by both travelers and industry experts alike. Willow Run Airport is the perfect complement to Detroit Metro, as a major air cargo, corporate, charter and general aviation hub. At both airports, the WCAA has achieved world-leader status, and is well-deserving of this recognition by the State of Michigan," said Rob Abent, director, Aeronautics and Freight Services.

"This recognition was a complete surprise, but a welcome one," said WCAA CEO Lester Robinson. "It is both gratifying and humbling to be recognized for the many hours, months and years of persistent dedication by WCAA management and staff to transform these airports into safe, efficient, air transportation hubs and economic development powerhouses."

Detroit Metropolitan Airport now has two new pleasant and efficient terminals and an expanded airfield. Its industry-leading aircraft deicing fluid recycling program provides for re-use of a chemical product and a safer airfield. Energy-efficient systems deliver electric power, fuel and air conditioning to aircraft at the North Terminal, improving air

quality at the airport. Willow Run Airport has completed more than \$16 million in construction projects over the past four years to improve runway safety areas (RSA's).

The Michigan Airport Conference is hosted by the Bureau and the Michigan Association of Airport Executives (MAAE). Accepting the award were WCAA's Director of State Government Relations Susy Avery and Willow Run Airport Director David DiMaria.

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