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News Release

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Airport Authority Honored for DBE Efforts *--One of only three airports recognized*

Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA) was honored earlier this month for its dedication to breaking down barriers and increasing business opportunities for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE's) at both Detroit Metropolitan and Willow Run Airports. WCAA is one of only three airport operators to capture this award.

Federal Aviation Administration's **2011 DBE Advocate and Partner Award** was presented to WCAA at an Airport Minority Advisory Council (AMAC) conference in Fort Worth, Texas. The event was attended by Interim CEO Genelle Allen and Board Member and Wayne County Commissioner Bernard Parker.

WCAA Board Chair Renee Axt said the Board's outside-the-box thinking and innovative strategies are clearly working.

"The Board is honored to have received the FAA 2011 DBE Advocate and Partner Award. This is a direct result of our continued efforts to support Disadvantaged Business Enterprises which ultimately has a positive impact for the surrounding communities and the WCAA," said Ms. Axt.

Fanny Rivera, Assistant Administrator for Civil Rights and FAA Diversity Advocate said the award is given annually to "...airport sponsors who have demonstrated excellence in meeting the letter, spirit and intent of the DBE program."

WCAA's success has been attributed to several innovative strategies, including an aggressive schedule to audit contracts which resulted in improving relationships between prime contractors and their DBE partners. The Authority also strengthened standard contractual language obligating prime contractors to adhere to their commitments as well as to report DBE participation in a timely and accurate manner. WCAA staff has also increased participation in construction progress meetings actively engaging with prime and sub contractors on a more regular basis.