



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **NORTH CAROLINA AIRPORT'S ASSOCIATION HOSTS 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE Presented the first-ever Legislative Leadership Awards in Aviation to state Senator Bill Rabon and Representative John Torbett**

**Pinehurst, NC** - The North Carolina Airport's Association (NCAA) hosted its 40<sup>th</sup> annual conference March 19-22, 2019 in Pinehurst where over 450 stakeholders representing the state's 72 public use airports gathered to discuss industry issues, cultivate ideas and professional development. They were joined by representatives from the North Carolina General Assembly, Federal Aviation Administration, North Carolina Department of Transportation Division of Aviation, the North Carolina State University Institute for Transportation Research and Education (ITRE), national trade associations and many other aviation professionals.

Of particular significance, the NCAA presented state Senator Bill Rabon and Representative John Torbett with the inaugural NCAA Legislative Leadership Awards in appreciation for their exceptional leadership and steadfast support of aviation in North Carolina. The legislators also spoke about the priorities of the General Assembly for this session and several important legislative initiatives that impact aviation and economic development.

"It is our job at the NCAA to educate and highlight information that will help our legislators make decisions that positively impact our state's airports," said Tina Kinsey, A.A.E., Director of Marketing and Air Service Development at Asheville Regional Airport and NCAA President. "Senator Rabon and Representative Torbett have been engaged and have provided excellent leadership, and we wanted to recognize them for their leadership in the state's aviation industry."

The theme of the 2019 Conference was "NC Airports Taking Off, By Design" and sessions focused on the complex world of airport planning, design and construction. Other highlights of the conference included North Carolina's Chief Deputy Secretary of Transportation, David Howard, and NCDOT's Aviation Division Director Bobby Walston, PE detailed report about how the state's airport industry now has an economic output of \$52 billion and supports over

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Association Registered in Fayetteville, North Carolina



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307,000 jobs. Airports and the related industries have grown to account for approximately 9% of the state's GDP. Kevin Burke, CEO of Airports Council International-North America presented the perspective from Capitol Hill, and commented about how impressive North Carolina's growing economy was and the impact the airports are having on this growth.

The Association awarded three scholarships to exceptional students seeking post-secondary education in the fields of aviation and engineering. President Kinsey presented Brad Whited, A.A.E., Director of the Fayetteville Regional Airport with the President's Award for his more than 20 years of service to the association and airports across North Carolina.

The North Carolina Airports Association represents the state's 72 airports from Charlotte-Douglas, Raleigh-Durham International and Asheville Regional Airport to Statesville Regional, Dare County Regional and Duplin County. The Association mission is to strengthen North Carolina airports through legislative advocacy, professional growth, and by promoting the impact of airports.

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