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PHL Airport Ready to Welcome 2,000 Aviation Professionals

American Association of Airport Executives to gather here for annual conference and exposition

PHILADELPHIA – More than 2,000 airport and aviation professionals are expected at the 87th Annual American Association of Airport Executives Conference & Exposition, which gets underway on Saturday, June 6. Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) is hosting the event, one of the largest gatherings of airport officials in the world, through June 10 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

Highlighting the event is a lineup of prominent keynote speakers including U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx, who is scheduled to address the attendees at a general session on Tuesday, June 9; and National Transportation Safety Board Chairman Christopher Hart, who is scheduled to speak on Wednesday, June 10. Former Philadelphia Mayor and Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell is scheduled to be the keynote speaker on Wednesday morning.

The AAEA annual conference, which PHL hosted as late as 2009, attracts aviation professionals from some 850 large, medium, and small hub airports including airport executives; airport and aviation suppliers and vendors; airline personnel; and representatives from the Federal Aviation Administration, Transportation Security Administration, and Department of Homeland Security. Attendees will have an opportunity to network with their peers while visiting over 200 exhibit booths. This year's conference theme, "Bill of Flights," is a tribute to the significant role Philadelphia has played in the nation's origin.

"We are excited to once again host this signature event and welcome our colleagues, friends and industry partners to Philadelphia for an amazing program and a great time," said Airport CEO Mark Gale. "The next several days are filled with stimulating training sessions, activities and exciting keynote speakers. This is an exciting time to be in Philadelphia, and we are proud to be welcoming the aviation industry here for this major event."

The program kicks off on Saturday, June 6 with a volunteer activity at Habitat for Humanity's Restore location in South Philadelphia. AAEA is committed to participating in charitable events in local communities and the annual conference features an activity where volunteers from AAEA and the host airport donate their time to a Habitat for Humanity project. Restore is a second-hand retail outlet that will open to the public on June 26.

Airport CEO Gale is this year's conference host. He is joined by PHL executive team members Keith J. Brune, Deputy Director, Operations and Facilities, who is serving as conference program chair; Airport Chief Operating Officer Chellie Cameron, and Diego Rincon, Deputy Director of Aviation, Capital Development, who are serving as conference planning co-chairs.

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The conference program features educational sessions relevant to the many challenges faced by the aviation industry. These sessions are organized into tracks based on areas of responsibility such as Airfield Safety, Operations and Security; Federal Affairs; Finance and Economics; General Aviation; Marketing, Customer Service and Public Affairs; and Planning and Facility Management.

Three PHL representatives are scheduled to serve as subject matter experts during two of these sessions. Joseph Messina, Divisional Deputy City Solicitor, will serve as a panelist for *Emerging Trends in Airline Use and Lease Agreements* which will examine emerging trends that impact the business deal and the benefit to airports/airlines. Tracy Borda, Acting Deputy Director of Aviation, Finance & Administration, will be a speaker for *Creative Approaches to Non-Aeronautical Revenue Development*, a panel discussion to explore new ways to generate revenue opportunities. Tina McCarthy, Public Relations Specialist, will be one of the speakers on-hand to discuss the various platforms and tools used to establish a social media master plan during *Part 1: Social Media Relevancy-Focusing on What's Right-Not What's Hot*.

"We have an abundance of history, culture, and so many other things that fascinate, entertain, embrace, and ensure a great experience," said Gale. "We have wonderful museums, a lively music scene, and a plethora of fabulous restaurants, many of which are featured in the conference souvenir *Philadelphia Chef's Table*."

Founded in 1928, AAAE, the world's premier association for airport professionals, has nearly 5,000 individual members including some 3,000 airport professionals representing nearly 850 different airports, from large hubs to general aviation facilities. The association's 600 corporate members are dedicated to serving airports and the aviation industry, and provide critical support to the association through their participation in meetings and workshops.

For more information and the latest updates, please visit aaae.org/annual2015.

This year, Philadelphia International Airport celebrates the 75th anniversary of its commercial air service. In 1940, the Airport served 40,000 passengers flying to a handful of cities. Today, more than 30 million passengers travel annually to 131 destinations around the world.

Philadelphia International Airport is owned and operated by the City of Philadelphia. The Airport is a self-sustaining entity that operates without the use of local tax dollars. It is one of the largest economic engines in Pennsylvania, generating an estimated \$14.4 billion in spending to the regional economy and accounting for more than 141,000 jobs.