

# 2011 Florida Aviation Awards



Ananth Prasad, FDOT Secretary, and Andy Keith, FDOT Aviation Development Administrator, announced the winners of the 2011 Florida Aviation Awards at the Florida Airports Council Conference in July.

## Aviation Professional

### Greg Donovan

Greg Donovan, A.A.E., is Airports Director for Okaloosa County Airports, a multiple airport system that includes commercial and general aviation airports. He has led these airports to monumental success since his appointment.

Soon after Donovan decided to construct a concourse expansion, a high-quality carrier announced it would fly out of the commercial airport. The airport netted an additional 128 jobs and an annual impact of more than \$370 million.

Donovan has served as Chair of the Regional CFASPP Steering Committee, and he currently serves as President of the Florida Airports Council.

## General Aviation Airport

### Hernando County Airport

Airport Manager Don Silvernell and the staff of Hernando County Airport are committed to promoting aviation safety, and they relentlessly seek opportunities to bring new businesses to the airport, thereby increasing job opportunities and economic growth.

The airport recently completed a number of airfield safety enhancements. These enhancements, along with clear approaches and the onsite fire station, increase safety for the flying public.

We congratulate Airport Manager Don Silvernell, the staff of Hernando County Airport, and Hernando County Board of County Commissioners.

## Commercial Service Airport

### Pensacola Gulf Coast Regional Airport

Pensacola Gulf Coast Regional



FDOT Secretary Prasad (center, in most of the photos) and Andy Keith, FDOT's Aviation Development Administrator (far right in all photos), present the 2011 Florida Aviation Awards. Clockwise from above left: **Aviation Professional, Greg Donovan** (left), Okaloosa County Airports Director; **General Aviation Airport Project, Vero Beach Municipal Airport;** **Commercial Service Airport Project, Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport;** **Commercial Service Airport, Belinda Zephir** (left), Marketing Manager, Pensacola Gulf Coast Regional Airport; **General Aviation Airport, Don Silvernell** (left), Hernando County Airport Manager.

Airport excels in the areas of safety, aesthetics, and airport management. The airport completely rehabilitated all of its runways and taxiways to ensure operational safety, and also made a number of changes to the terminal area.

After experiencing a 57 percent growth in passenger traffic and suffering from capacity constraints, the airport began a terminal expansion project, including a new fully automated baggage screening system.

We congratulate Airport Director Melinda Crawford, A.A.E., the staff of Pensacola Gulf Coast Regional Airport, and the city of Pensacola.

## General Aviation Airport Project

### Vero Beach Municipal Airport Runway Rehabilitation

The rehabilitation of Runway 11L-29R, including taxiway F and connectors, at Vero Beach Municipal Airport demonstrated numerous contributions toward several safety elements, airport development, and enhanced capacity.

With the rehabilitated runway in place, Vero Beach Municipal Airport has improved several safety issues and

has positioned itself to accommodate the high volume of flight training.

We congratulate Airport Manager Eric Menger; the staff of Vero Beach Municipal Airport; Wilbur Smith Associates, consultant; and Ranger Construction Industries, contractor.

## Commercial Service Airport Project

### Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport Relocation / Construction

More than 20 years ago, the Panama City airport began discussing the need to expand. Because the airport's two runways lacked sufficient runway safety areas, relocation was the best option.

In 2010 the airport, now named Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport, completed its relocation to a new site 20 miles away. The airport is the first greenfield commercial airport to open in the U.S. in more than 10 years.

We congratulate former Executive Director Randall Curtis, A.A.E.; the staff of Northwest Florida Beaches Int'l; Kellogg Brown & Root Services, Inc., consultant; Walbridge, contractor; and Phoenix Construction, contractor. ♦