



**2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
April 28 - May 1, 2019 // Tulsa, Oklahoma

Speakers



## **Grayson Ardies**

Deputy Director of the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission

Has been working for the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission since August 2009. He started as an Aviation Program Manager conducting airport and pavement inspections at Oklahoma's public-use, general aviation airports to provide each community with a foundation for the federal and state capital planning process. In 2016 he became Manager of the Airport Development Division to oversee the development of the Commission's Three-year Capital Improvement Program which directs approximately \$25 million of federal, state, and local funding per year to Oklahoma's general aviation airports. As head of the Division, he oversees program managers that conduct airport inspections, airspace zoning reviews in accordance with the State's Aircraft Pilot and Passenger Protection Act, implement the state's anemometer tower marking law, and provide assistance to airports with their development, operation, and technical documents. He currently serves as the agency's UAS coordinator and as project manager for the recently released statewide aviation and aerospace economic impact study. Grayson graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in Aviation Management with double minors in Business Administration and Air Traffic Control. As part of his education at the aviation program he also received a commercial pilot's license with single and multi-engine instrument ratings and is a certified flight instructor.



## **Kristin M. Baciуска**

Loomacres Wildlife Management, Inc.  
President and Airport Wildlife Biologist

Co-founded Loomacres Wildlife Management, Inc. in 2005. Kristin has a diverse background in the biological sciences to include fisheries and wildlife management, wetlands and plant science. Kristin holds a Master's of Science degree in Biology and has completed a FAA grant funded research project titled "Native and Naturalized Grasses Suitable for use on Airports Managed for Wildlife". Kristin has presented her research and experiences at numerous venues including the USA/Canada Bird Strike Conferences, Wildlife Damage Management Conferences, and several AAE and State Aviation Association Conferences. Kristin is a proud supporter of the OAOA and enjoys assisting airports throughout the state of Oklahoma with wildlife management. Kristin has conducted numerous Wildlife Hazard Assessments and has made vegetation management and planting recommendations for airfields across the United States and is a certified wetland delineator as well as a certified commercial pesticide applicator. Kristin enjoys sports and doing anything outdoors, especially with her two boys and dog.



## **Victor N. Bird**

Director of the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission since 2002

Has championed legislation promoting the aerospace industry such as the engineer tax credits for aerospace, and the protection of public airports such as the Aircraft Pilot and Passenger Protection Act. Under his leadership, \$60 million of the \$71 million that the Commission has received since becoming a wholly separate agency in 2002 has been invested in airport infrastructure across the state. He was the 2010 chair of the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO, pronounced Nuh-Say-O), the only Oklahoman to ever hold that office in the over 80-year history of the Association. He is the recipient of the 2017 Chairman's Award, one of the Association's most prestigious awards, recognizing a state director for his dedication to NASAO and aviation. He is the 2010 recipient of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association's most prestigious award, the Hartranft Award, which recognized Vic for his achievements in public policy that have advanced aviation. He is the only non-elected official to ever receive the award. He is also the recipient of the 2009 General Thomas P. Stafford Award recognizing his outstanding contribution to Oklahoma's aerospace industry. Currently, he is the co-chair of NASAO's Legislative Committee and a member of the U.S. Contract Tower Association Policy Board.



## **Glenn Boles**

Manager, Arkansas/Oklahoma Airports District Office  
Federal Aviation Administration

Glenn has a degree in Architectural Engineering from the University of Kansas and is a diehard Jayhawk!

After leaving college, Glenn worked in the consulting world as a design engineer and project manager for three years in Kansas City. He joined the FAA's Southwest Region in October 1992 and spent five years on FAA construction sites. Projects included the construction of a 15 mile road and a joint FAA/Air Force radar facility on the top of Magdalena Peak in New Mexico and the construction of a replacement Airport Traffic Control Tower at the Roswell, NM Airport. Glenn joined the FAA's Office of Airports in 2000 as a Program Manager in the Arkansas/Oklahoma ADO and has worked as a Program Manager in the Texas ADO and as a Senior Program Manager in the Office of Safety and Standards. He has been with the FAA for over 24 years. Glenn and his wife of 24 years have two children, a son in high school and a daughter in middle school. Away from the office, he enjoys coaching youth sports, taking on house projects or just hanging out in the garage working on a hot rod.

## **Bart Gilbreath**

PE, LEED AP

Garver Aviation Group



An Aviation Electrical Leader in Garver's Aviation Group with more than 13 years of aviation-focused design and management experience. Bart has designed improvements on more than \$600 million worth of airfield and aviation-related projects, including LED upgrade projects at Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City, signage and electrical infrastructure study and design at R.L. Jones Jr. Airport in Tulsa, and electrical airfield study and design at Wiley Post Airport in Oklahoma City. Bart was the lead electrical engineer on the projects that installed the first LED MIRLs in Oklahoma – Hollis, the first LED guidance signs in Oklahoma – Ada, and the first LED MIRLs in Arkansas – Paris.

Bart has presented at various state and FAA aviation conferences, including presenting papers on ground breaking megger testing research at the FAA 4-States Conference and IES Airport Lighting Committee technical conference – the world's premier aviation lighting technical conference.

Bart graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Arkansas Tech University in 2004 and a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Arkansas in 2008.

He and his wife of 14 years, Adrienne, have one six-year old daughter, Lorelai, and two dogs: Lucy (AKC Golden Retriever) and Dory (Golden Lab mix). In his free time, Bart enjoys photography, college sports (Woo Pig Sooie! / Boomer Sooner!), music, meteorology, genealogy, Geocaching, staying plugged in at his church, and spending time with his family and dogs.



## **Todd Hauptli**

President and CEO of AAEE

He is the third CEO in the Association's history.

Todd joined AAEE in 1991 and prior to becoming CEO was responsible for overseeing AAEE's interactions with Congress and the Executive Branch agencies.

Before joining AAEE, Todd served as a Congressional Relations Officer handling aviation issues at the Department of Transportation.

Prior to his service at the Department of Transportation, Todd served on the White House staff of President Ronald Reagan as Associate Director of Cabinet Affairs. He also worked at the Department of Commerce, first in the Congressional Affairs office, then directly for the Secretary of Commerce.

He began his career on Capitol Hill working on the staff of the House Republican Research Committee. He is a graduate of the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Todd is married with three sons. He and his family reside in McLean, Virginia.



## **Vince Howie**

Aerospace & Defense Director, Oklahoma Dept of Commerce

Became the aerospace and defense director for the Oklahoma Department of commerce in November 2013. He serves on the Oklahoma strategic military planning commission, the governors unmanned aerospace systems Council, and Oklahoma F – 35 Task Force. Prior to this position with the Department of Commerce, Howie retired from the United States Air Force in April 2012 after 29 years of civil service.

## **Todd Hubbard**

Clarence E. Page Professor of Aviation  
University of Oklahoma



Dr. Hubbard earned his Bachelor of Arts in History from Oklahoma State University and was commissioned into the USAF in May 1974 and retired from the USAF in 1995. During his USAF career, he flew and commanded the KC-135, T-37 trainer, U-2, T1-A aircraft. He served as commander of Loring Maine's T-37 accelerated copilot enrichment program, twice commanded the 4402 reconnaissance squadron (provisional) at King Fahad Air Base, Taif, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and commanded the Services Squadron at Beale AFB CA. As a U-2 high altitude reconnaissance pilot, he flew 60 missions on behalf of the President of the United States, the Secretary of Defense, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the United Nations, foreign customers, and theater commanders in all worldwide regions. Dr. Hubbard's flight experience includes nearly 2,000 hours in the KC-135 and T-37 and more than 1,100 hours in the U-2R, TR-1A, and U-2C models of the high altitude reconnaissance aircraft from worldwide locations. He served as a Reconnaissance Staff Officer for NATO (1989-1992). As a Tactical/Evaluation observer pilot for NATO, he flew missions in the RF-4C and F-16. Dr. Hubbard earned his MS from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (international campus) in 1987. Following USAF retirement, he worked as an instructional designer/programmer and E-3 AWACS simulation for the Boeing Company in Midwest City OK and was a contract instructional systems designer for the University of Oklahoma, building courseware for Federal Aviation Administration air traffic controllers at the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center in Oklahoma City. Dr. Hubbard earned his Education doctorate from Oklahoma State University in May 2000. Dr. Hubbard served as an associate professor and the Clarence E. Page and program coordinator at Oklahoma State University until 2012 when he was selected as an associate professor and Clarence E. Page at the University of Oklahoma. In 2018, Dr. Hubbard was promoted to full professor at the University of Oklahoma.



## **Michael B. McGee**

Dr. McGee is a Senior Research Associate at the Center for Space Exploration and Technology Research (cSETR) at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). Dr. McGee directs the unmanned aircraft system (UAS) program for cSETR. He directs the research and flight program for a number of advanced fixed and rotary wing platforms and sensors. He also developed and continues to lead the multi-agency government effort that established the first county-wide unmanned traffic management system in the US. Dr. Michael McGee is also an adjunct senior policy researcher at the RAND Corporation. His research focuses on a variety of civilian and military aviation, defense, and security-related subjects for the Department of Defense and other government agencies. Dr. McGee is retired from the U.S. Air Force. He spent most his career as an F-16 pilot, including multiple combat and command tours. He was a Command Pilot, a Mission Commander, a Standards and Evaluation pilot, and spent four years as an instructor pilot in the F-16 division of the Air Force's Fighter Weapons School. Operational experience in Korea, Europe, the Middle East, and Southwest Asia. Combat experience in Operation Proven Force/Desert Storm, Southern Watch, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.



## **Barbara McNally**

Airport Director Lawton-Ft. Sill Regional Airport (LAW)

I consider myself one of those lucky people that actually loves what I do. I've been the Airport Director at the Lawton-Ft. Sill Regional Airport for 22 years, for a total of 34 years working for the Airport Authority.

My Bachelor's degree in Education and Psychology comes in very handy since much of my job is to educate board members and the community about the importance of the airport. The Psychology part helps in trying to figure out some of the interesting personalities we encounter. I also have an Associate's degree in Airport Management from Western Oklahoma State College, where I was fortunate to teach (adjunct) for 10 years after graduating.

I have been a part of OAOA since 1996 and have served in several capacities. I believe we are each other's most valuable resource.

## **Leo Murphree, Jr.**

President and owner of  
ECS-Electrical & Construction Specialists, Inc.



Received his private pilot's license in 1964, and that's when his interest in airport lighting began. Having never ever seen an airport light before, his company, at that time, M & S Electrical Service, Inc., successfully installed its first high-intensity airport lighting project in 1967 in cooperation with the Michael Baker Jr. Engineers. Leo soon realized that there were many, many airports in existence that had little or no money on which to keep its airfield lighting operable. This led to several innovations that would save airports money. One of several is his energy-saving high output light source for airport rotating beacons, a patented innovation (#4,717,991) that received recognition from the United States Department of Energy in 1985, and which is used in most of the major airport rotating beacons today. Other less expensive innovations are a simplified all-inclusive remote air-to-ground airfield lighting control panel, and generic power and control panels for VASIs and PAPIs to name a few. Leo's company, E.C.S. also provides technical information and specifications for airport engineers and consultants throughout the country. Leo and his company are one of the few civilian companies approved by the F.A.A. to maintain and inspect and keep M.A.L.S.R. systems legally operational.

Leo attended his first OAOA conference in 1985, has been an active member ever since and now serves as a corporate representative for assisting with the layout and designation of the various exhibitor booths and activities at the annual conferences.

Leo's other activities include, in addition to membership in OAOA, corporate membership and participation in the Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi and Tennessee aviation associations. He is the president of and plays first trumpet in the Greenwood Community Concert Bank, active in the music program of Immanuel Baptist Church and a member of the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce, having served as chairman of several major award-winning annual festivals locally. Leo also has a venue for social activities and a private museum with many interesting artifacts, including many military items and items of local interest.

Often asked how Leo got into his niche business, his answer is simple: God opens doors and he's never been afraid to step through them.



## Emeka Nnaka

Emeka Nnaka is a professional motivational speaker and leading advocate for individuals with physical challenges. He brings a message of determination, inspiration, and hope to audiences of all ages, young and old.

While playing in a semi-pro football game, at the age of 21, Emeka sustained a career-ending neck and spinal cord injury that left him paralyzed from his chest down. In the face of the most extreme of circumstances, he chose not to give in and not give up.

Emeka is uniquely qualified to present life, its challenges, and its opportunities from the perspective of someone who found strength through tremendous adversity.

He has addressed audiences of up to 1,000 guests at events across the Midwest U.S. including schools, professional groups, and corporate events.

Emeka serves as an advocate for the physically challenged on the local, state, and national levels. Recently, he was featured on National Public Radio's (NPR) "All Things Considered," where he discussed the Americans with Disabilities Act on its 25th anniversary for a national audience.

He is an Ambassador for the Tulsa Area United Way, playing a key role in fundraising, marketing, and community investments for one of the nation's largest non-profit organizations. He is involved with the Center for Individuals with Physical Challenges, where he leads the Spinal Cord Injury Support Group, provides personal training for persons with disabilities, and gives presentations to donor and volunteer groups.

He has also served as a Youth Advisor and Men's Ministry Coordinator for Victory Christian Church, which has one of the largest nondenominational congregations in the Midwest.

He graduated with his bachelor's degree in Rehabilitation Services from Langston University and is currently studying to receive his master's in Human Relations from Oklahoma University in Tulsa. As a speaker, coach, and advocate, Emeka inspires others to remain hopeful through life's circumstances, love one another well, and pursue their best possible future.

## **Jeanne Olivier**

Assistant Director Security Operations and Programs  
Department of the Port Authority  
of New York and New Jersey.



She has worked with the Port Authority for over 34 years in airport operational management positions at John F. Kennedy International, LaGuardia, Newark Liberty International, and Teterboro airports as well as the aviation central office in Manhattan. She has managed the central Aviation Security Program since the attacks on the World Trade Center in 2001 including oversight of Security and Technology for the Authority's five airports.

Ms. Olivier is responsible for policies and programs to strengthen the security of the Port Authority's commercial airports, and general aviation facilities, and ensure compliance with federal and state laws and regulations. Her office oversees a nearly half-billion dollar multi-year capital program for physical and technological security enhancements at these facilities, and numerous technology pilot projects conducted in partnership with and funded by the federal government. She and her office work closely with federal and state oversight agencies including the Transportation Security Administration, Federal Aviation Administration, U.S. Customs, Dept. of Energy, Dept. of Justice, and various state agencies on policy and funding matters for aviation security and technology.

Ms. Olivier is active on several industry and federal committees on aviation security matters. She is an Accredited Airport Executive and currently serves as the National Chair of the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE), and on the Board of the International Association of Airport Executives. She has been a member of the Board of Directors of AAAE, a Past President of its Northeast Chapter, former Chair of the AAAE Transportation Security Services Committee, and a former elected member of Airports Council International's Public Safety and Security Steering Group. She previously chaired AAAE's Academic Relations Committee, the AAAE Biometric Airport Security Identification Consortium, and the 2013 National Airports Conference. She has been a regular contributor for several years to RTCA's publication series, "Standards for Airport Security Access Control Systems." Ms. Olivier holds a BA and MA from Florida State University and an MBA from Columbia University.

She returned to the U.S. in 2007 following a year with the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq where she assisted the U.S. Department of State in the rebuilding of the Iraq Civil Aviation System. For this work, she received the U.S. Department of State's Meritorious Honor Award in 2007 from Ambassador to Iraq, Zalmay Khalilzad, and another in 2008 from Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker.

In 2013, Jeanne was awarded the American Association of Airport Executives Chair's Award for "outstanding contribution to the airport management profession and to the American Association of Airport Executives."



## **Jared Parr, PE**

Electrical Engineer

Garver Aviation Group

With more than five years of aviation-focused design experience. Jared's airfield electrical design experience includes runway and taxiway lighting design, Surface Movement Guidance and Control Systems (SMGCS) design, electrical vault building design, Navigational Aid (NAVAID) siting, extensive guidance sign design, and airfield circuit condition analysis. He is also a recipient of an ACEC award for innovative airfield electrical design.

Jared graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from The University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Arkansas. He also holds a private pilot's certificate with over 80 hours of logged flight time.

Jared is an avid musician who regularly plays piano, guitar, and violin. He also enjoys the outdoors, duck hunting, fishing, mountain biking, and most of all, getting the opportunity to use the airfield lighting and NAVAID equipment he helps design, when flying into airports around the area.



## **Paul Priegel**

Director of Stillwater Regional Airport (SWO)

Paul is currently the Northwest Regional Director for the Oklahoma Airport Operators Association, the Chair of the South Central AAE Academic Relations Committee (ARC) and is a member of the AAE National ARC and US Contract Tower Association Policy Board. Paul has his Master's Degree in Aviation and Space from Oklahoma State University where he also serves as an adjunct professor in the Aviation program teaching in areas of legal and regulatory issues, aviation management and security as well as aircraft accident investigations. Paul is also the co-advisor to the recently revived OSU AAE Student Chapter. Prior to his airport career, Paul spent nearly 15 years in law enforcement and retired as a patrol supervisor, a field training supervisor, the commander of the crisis negotiations team and the coordinator for the community outreach program. Paul also holds specialized certifications and training in special weapons and tactics (SWAT), crisis negotiations, terrorism and accident reconstruction.



## **Zachary Puchacz**

Aviation Planner, Mead & Hunt, Inc.

Zachary Puchacz has more than 11 years of airport management and planning experience and has been involved with many aviation planning and airfield construction projects at Mead & Hunt.

With a broad range of experience in airport operations, Zachary has knowledge and experience in many areas of airport management including administration, finance, marketing, planning, construction, operations, security, maintenance, and aircraft rescue and firefighting.

Zachary is responsible for the safe and efficient operation of airports, which includes overseeing airfield inspections, coordinating airfield planning with construction, supervising the removal of snow and ice from airfields, preventing FAR Part 77 obstructions, inspecting aircraft fueling facilities and responding to airport emergency situations.

Because of Zach's understanding and experience with airport emergency situations, he serves as a full-scale airport disaster drill evaluator to assess the response and implementation of airport emergency plans. In addition, Zachary has worked on a number of airport infrastructure justification studies, including those for general aviation terminal buildings, runway extensions, and runway rehabilitation projects.

As a member of the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE)'s Operations, Safety, and Planning committee, Zachary provides input on a variety of issues facing airports and the aviation industry, including airfield safety; proposed and existing policies by the FAA and other local, state and federal agencies; and review of draft FAA Advisory Circulars.



## Randal Rhodes

Randal Rhodes is the Assistant Fire Chief for the DFW Airport Department of Public Safety with a current position over Career Development, the Fire Training Research Center (FTRC), and Compliance & Planning Divisions. He has 25 years of service with DFW Department of Public Safety holding a commission in Law Enforcement, Fire Services, and Emergency Medical Services with a strong background in training of police, fire, and EMS personnel. He is a licensed paramedic, aeronautical flight paramedic, master peace officer, field examiner, and fire service instructor II. Chief Rhodes brings 20 years of Air Force flight training to the Research Center curriculum. Chief Rhodes holds a bachelor's degree in Biology. Prior to his current assignment with DFW Airport, he participated in several medical research projects as an associate researcher in the fields of genetic testing and DNA coding. With his extensive background in research fundamentals, he has been an asset to the FTRC with various fire fighter / airport-related research project to include projects with the FAA, University of Texas – Arlington, and LastFire.



## **Jesus H Saenz, Jr. IAP**

Jesus H. Saenz Jr., IAP, is the Chief Operating Officer (COO) for the Houston Airport System (HAS). As the COO, Saenz oversees strategic and business plan development, business process re-engineering, implementing technologically complex projects and airport operations.

Previously, Mr. Saenz was the General Manager for William P. Hobby Airport and was responsible for leading Hobby to earn a Skytrax 4-star international rating in 2016. While at Hobby, he was also responsible for directing the day-to-day management of the airport, as well as for establishing policies, procedures, guidelines and project schedules for Hobby. In addition, he coordinates the preparation, implementation, and monitoring of the budget and expenditures for Hobby, among other duties. Prior to his current position, Saenz served as Assistant Director – Activation Team / Operational Readiness and Airport Transfer Team.

He has held a wide range of positions, including Assistant Director of Administration and Customer Service at George Bush Intercontinental Airport, Assistant Director of Transportation at George Bush Intercontinental Airport, Acting Assistant Director of Operations at George Bush Intercontinental Airport, Senior Superintendent, Superintendent and Customer Service Manager.

## **Teresa Schuller**

Environmental Project Manager  
Mead & Hunt, Inc.



Has 30 years of experience in environmental research as well as state and consulting experience. As an analytical chemist, her research includes organic and inorganic compounds' fate and degradation in soil, surface water, sediment, and ground water.

Teresa served as project management of multi-faceted domestic and international mergers and acquisition projects. She managed manuals preparation for pollution, prevention and control (PPC); spill, prevention, control and countermeasure (SPCC); spill response, ground water protection plan, etc. Teresa has conducted environmental and Occupational Safety and Health Administration training. She also managed more than 1,500 telecommunications tower siting projects. Teresa has prepared Regulation 13 air applications for various industries and Title V applications for landfill as well as tier II and III air submission for industries. She managed and prepared U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permits for a variety of projects and assisted concrete and timber industries with storm water permitting and discharge monitoring report compliance.

She was project manager for various general civil engineering projects and construction management projects. In addition, Teresa was responsible for permitting and construction management of housing authority redevelopment projects and an energy sector-compressor station. She has 14 years of experience in applicable risk assessment work conducting and managing more than 100 various types of risk assessments for industry and Potentially Responsible Parties (PRP) committees. Teresa managed, prepared and defended Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and Resource and Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) risk assessments.



## **Michael Spurgeon**

City Manager of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

Michael became city manager of Broken Arrow OK. in September 2015. Including Broken Arrow, Spurgeon has worked in 5 Different Communities in Oklahoma, Missouri, and New Jersey and has over 31 years of municipal management experience.

Spurgeon holds a master of Public Administration degree from Rutgers University and Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Edison State College. In 2018, he received his Certified Municipal Official designation from the Oklahoma Municipal League.

Michael is a past winner of Oklahoma's this prestigious Don Rider award for Oklahoma's Outstanding City Official of the Year and in 2006 was recognized as the States Emergency Management Public Official of the Year. He was recently presented with the 2016 Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce Chairman's Award. He was named as an honoree to the "10 to watch in greater Tulsa" list by GTR Newspapers in 2018.

## **Sandra Shelton**

*Public Information & Government Affairs Liaison  
Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission*



*Joined the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission in April 2016 as the liaison for Government Affairs and Aviation Education. She assumed the responsibilities as the Director of Communications a few months later. She is accountable for the marketing and communication/strategic plan development efforts of the agency. In addition to tactical aviation marketing development efforts, she directs social and print media relations, branding, advertising and website development. She manages and oversees events, content writing, legislative research and development, policy development, speech writing, video vignettes and document layout/design.*

*Able to leverage over 20 years of continued education, training, technical expertise and hands-on private sector and state civil service experience in communications with a focus in government affairs, she is a native of Yukon and attended Oklahoma State University's Oklahoma City campus. Hired in 1997 as a legislative assistant in the Oklahoma House of Representatives for State Representative Ray McCarter, (D) Marlow, her nine-year tenure includes clerking for Representatives Bill Nations, Clay Pope, Wallace Collins, Mike Ervin and Congressman Dan Boren. Recruited by the Senate Republican Leadership in 2004 by then Freshman Senator Don Barrington, she also was the interim clerk to Senator Eddie Fields, Senator Dan Newberry, and Senator Patrick Anderson.*

*A free-lance writer, she is a former contributing columnist for the internet news outlet, Examiner.com. Shelton currently serves on the Board of Directors as the Secretary for the Oklahoma State Senate Historical Preservation Fund, Inc. which administers various art projects at the Oklahoma State Legislature at no cost to the public. Shelton also works in the private sector as a social media manager with expertise in layout and design, film production, and digital media strategy*



## **Walt Strong, A.A.E**

Retired (2018) Administrator of the University of Oklahoma's Max Westheimer Airport in Norman (OUN)

Currently owner of Higher Purpose Drone Service, LLC in Norman, OK. Walt served more than 19 years as Director of the University of Oklahoma's Max Westheimer Airport in Norman. He also served as Deputy Director of the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission and more than twenty years in the US Air Force as an Air Traffic Controller in both Radar Approach Control and Control Tower facility's. His education includes a BA (Summa Cum Laude) from Southern Nazarene University in Human Resources Management, a MS from Oklahoma State University in Aviation with a 4.0 GPA and inclusion in Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society. Walt was certified an Accredited Airport Executive (AAE) in 2006 and was an Adjunct Faculty member in the University of Oklahoma's Aviation Program. He served four years on the Board of Directors for the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) and was a member of AAAE's Policy Review Committee (PRC). He was Policy Board Chairman of the US Contract Tower Association (USCTA) for over 10 years, a Past President for the South Central Chapter/AAAE and was President of the Oklahoma Airport Operators Association (OAOA). FAA certificates include Control Tower Operator, Remote Pilot and Private Pilot. In 2019, he celebrates 50 years of marriage to his wife Cherry, they have two children and seven grandchildren.

## **William S. Swelbar**

Research engineer at the  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology



Is a research engineer in the Massachusetts Institute of technology's international Center for air transportation, where he is affiliated with the global airline industry program and airline industry research Consortium. In addition to his MIT affiliation Swelbar joined Delta airport consultants, Inc. in August 2017 as its chief industrial strategist.

He also currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of Hawaiian (Airlines) holdings, Inc. and sets on the advisory board of Onejet inc. In December 2016, Swelbar was appointed to the U. S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Working Group on Improving Air Service to Small Communities.

Swelbar has spent 35 years in the consulting world with a focus on airline labor cost restructuring, regulatory issues governing air transport, communication strategy and support, and air service development on behalf of airports and communities. In his consulting roles, Swelbar has represented airlines, airports of all sizes, investors, manufacturers, and labor groups.

Swelbar has a passion for small community air service and the issues confronting the sub-sector of the industry. In response to those issues, he formed the regional air service alliance to find solutions to the structural headwinds.

Swelbar is also a much sought-after speaker and has provided expert witness testimony before various tribunals and before the United States Congress regarding the economics of commercial air transport. Swelbar is widely quoted in the financial and mainstream press on issues impacting air transport. Swelbar is published in the Journal of air transport management and is a contributing author in a second addition textbook release in 2015 titled the air industry published by Wiley Press.

Swelbar holds a bachelor of science degree in economics with honors from Eastern Michigan University and an MBA with a concentration in finance from the George Washington University.



## Tom Vick

Thomas Vick, A.A.E., was hired with the first Airport Compliance team at FAA Headquarters in 1996. In 2000, Tom left the FAA and became a tenured professor and chair of aviation and business programs at a university until December 2010, when he was appointed as New Bedford Regional Airport Director. In 2013, Tom returned to the FAA to work on national and regional airport compliance programs.

Since 1981, Tom's professional career includes positions in airport management with Massachusetts Port Authority at Boston-Logan International Airport and Hanscom Field, Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission, Richmond International Airport, Syracuse Hancock International Airport, and New Bedford Regional Airport. He also volunteered in the AAAE/Citizens Democracy Corps program and provided technical assistance at Cluj-Napoca International Airport in Romania.

Tom has earned a Bachelor of Science in Aviation Science, Juris Doctor, Master of Science in Organizational Leadership, and postgraduate certificate in Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Tom has received awards for contributions to the NASA Small Aircraft Transportation Systems (SATS) Program, and the Secretary of US Department of Transportation Study on Airport Business Practices and Their Impact on Airline Competition.

Tom earned his Accredited Airport Executive in 1992, and he has been a member of the American Association of Airport Executives since 1981. He earned his designation as an IAAE International Aerodrome Certified Employee in October 2018. He is an FAA-certificate remote pilot and former fixed-wing pilot, counselor-of-law, and real estate broker.



## **Don Wetekam**

Lt. General, USAF (RET.) ACES Program Director

Has over 40 years of experience in the aerospace industry, serving in key leadership positions in both the government and commercial sectors. From 2007 to 2018, he served as an officer with AAR Corporation, a leading aerospace service company. Prior to that, he served 34 years in the United States Air Force, retiring as a Lieutenant General after his final assignment as Deputy Chief of Staff for Installations and Logistics in Washington, DC.



## **Erick Winn**

Manager Claremore Regional Airport (KGCM)

Eric is the 2019 President of the Oklahoma Airport Operators Association. He is going on his 11<sup>th</sup> year as the manager at Claremore Regional Airport. He has overseen more than 5 million dollars in airport improvements during this time. Eric is very proud that under his tenure, the airport has become debt free and continues to operate in the black. He attended Oklahoma State University where he graduated with an Aviation Management Degree in 2007. Eric has a 5-year-old son and enjoys golf, fishing, exploring trails, and camping in his free time.