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Airport CEO Honored with Prestigious Award at Annual Industry Event

Award Highlights Accomplishments and Contributions to Airport and Community

BIRMINGHAM, AL (May 1, 2024) – Ronald F. Mathieu, C.M., President and CEO of the Birmingham Airport Authority (BAA) has received the Chair’s Award from the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE). The award was announced Tuesday night at the AAAE Annual Conference in Nashville.

The Chair’s Award is a reflection of outstanding accomplishment by the recipient, contributions to the airport they serve and to AAAE, and is awarded to someone who is a respected leader in their community and who takes an active role in making the airport industry better.

“Ron’s leadership at the BAA has led to many notable accomplishments during his tenure here,” said Bill Smith, Chair of the Birmingham Airport Authority. “This national recognition is well deserved,” said Smith.

Mathieu came to Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport in 2019 and saw the airport through the tumultuous pandemic. His goals to strengthen the financial position of the airport and to elevate the BAA’s role as an economic driver in the community have led to many notable accomplishments.

Under his leadership, the BAA has:

- Refinanced debt, creating significant interest savings and allowing the airport to pay down debt faster than expected
- Made significant infrastructure improvements
- Established the first ever regularly scheduled international cargo flights into Birmingham
- Will celebrate the grand opening of a new \$30 million Air Cargo facility in June

- Has negotiated and signed two new agreements with Fixed Based Operators (FBO's) resulting in more than \$60 million worth of investment in new and upgraded facilities over the next few years. FBO's are companies that provide services to private aircraft operators at the airport.

Mathieu is also committed to continual improvement of the customer experience at the airport and to fostering strong business relationships with airlines that are committed to serving our community. In the past year, additional nonstop flights to markets like New York, Detroit, and the restoration of a daily nonstop to Las Vegas are helping give passengers more choice when they fly.

For more information, please contact Kim Hunt at khunt@flybhm.com.

About Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport

As Alabama's largest commercial airport, Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport has served as a gateway to the sky for more than 90 years. Governed by the Birmingham Airport Authority, the airport continues to be a catalyst for growth and economic development for the entire region. For more information, visit flybhm.com or follow BHM on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

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