



The Tri-Cities Airport Authority invites applications for
Executive Director

Tri-Cities Airport (TRI)
Tennessee-Virginia

Executive Search Services Provided by ADK Consulting & Executive Search



The Airport

Tri-Cities Airport (TRI) is a full-service commercial airport serving Northeast Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, Western North Carolina and Eastern Kentucky. The Airport offers nonstop flights to four hubs (Atlanta, Charlotte, Orlando and Tampa/Clearwater-St. Petersburg) on Allegiant, American, and Delta.

TRI is centrally located between the cities of Bristol, Kingsport and Johnson City, Tennessee, just 3 miles off Interstate 81. The Airport's concourse provides comfort and convenience for travelers with seven spacious gates, restaurant, bar, gift shop, business center and free Wi-Fi.

The Airport's property covers approximately 1,260 acres, including an 119,000-sq-ft.-terminal and a fixed base operator, corporate hangars, FAA air traffic control tower, and TRI Aerospace Park with an Air Cargo Logistics Center. The Tri-Cities Air Cargo Logistics Center houses U.S. Customs Port No. 2027 and Foreign-Trade Zone No. 204. These departments facilitate cargo transportation and serve as a component of the Airport's economic development resources for cities, counties, and economic development boards regarding regional trade and logistics.

The Tri-Cities Airport Authority is governed by a 12-person board, appointed by the Cities of Kingsport, Bristol, Johnson City, TN and Bristol, VA; Washington and Sullivan Counties, TN. Full board meetings are held bi-monthly with committee meetings held bi-monthly.





The Airport *(continued...)*

The Airport Authority and staff are responsible for supporting the movement of people and goods in the region, promoting business development, maintaining facilities and grounds, negotiating contracts with vendors and business operators, complying with federal safety and security mandates, planning, budgeting and guiding the Airport's development from year-to-year.

TRI's FY 2018 operating budget is nearly \$7 million. Significant operators at the airport include Tri-City Aviation (FBO), Wysong, Air2, Eastman Chemical Company, Contura Energy and PHI. Enplanements for year 2017 were 193,068 and operations total approximately 36,000 annually. Significant capital projects underway include terminal access roadway improvements, public parking lot improvements, general aviation expansion and rehabilitation and south apron site development. The airport operates with a staff of 63 employees.

Recently TRI has embarked on a partnership between the Tri-Cities Airport Authority, Johnson City, Kingsport, Bristol, Washington County, Sullivan County, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, Tennessee Department of Transportation – Aeronautics Division, and the Tennessee Valley Authority to create the TRI Aerospace Park. The goal of the 160-acre development is to expand the existing cluster of aerospace companies in Northeast Tennessee, create high quality jobs, and increase economic activity for the region. It is estimated this on-airport site can accommodate up to 2,000 aerospace related jobs when fully occupied and the resulting private investment is projected to exceed \$400 million. Aerospace Park has been identified as one of the top economic development initiatives in the region.

We encourage you to view the 3-minute video that highlights the exciting regional economic development initiative, Aerospace Park, which is sponsored and led by the Tri-Cities Airport at [this link](#).



About the Tri-Cities Region

Tri-Cities Airport is centrally located between three urban hubs including Bristol, Tennessee/Virginia; Johnson City, Tennessee; and Kingsport, Tennessee. Each of these communities has its own unique voice boasting business, tourism attractions, and industrial development.

Connecting the Tri-Cities are two major interstates, I-26 and I-81, which create an unparalleled ease of access for commuters and travelers alike. Just minutes separate each of these cities from the other, and just a few more miles down the road are our region's neighbors: Erwin, Elizabethton, Greeneville and Roan Mountain, TN; Abingdon, VA; and Boone, Banner Elk and Blowing Rock, NC.

With the Tri-Cities' low cost of living, it is possible to travel, explore the region, and plan weekend adventures, all without breaking the bank.

Outdoor Recreation:

Northeast Tennessee is an outdoor enthusiast's paradise with world class hiking, fishing, watersports, biking and more. Some of the very best fly-fishing in the country is just minutes away from Tri-Cities Airport on the South Holston River and the world-famous Appalachian Trail crawls through the mountains of our home, gracefully winding itself by some of our most scenic vistas. Any nature-lover will find themselves immediately at home amongst our breathtaking scenery, whether they enjoy the rigors of mountain climbing, or a just a leisurely drive.

With four nearby lakes (Boone Lake, Patrick Henry Lake, South Holston Lake and Watauga Lake), watersports are accessible, and affordable in the Tri-Cities. Numerous marinas on each lake offer equipment and boat rentals or boat storage for those who are passionate about their time on the water. From jet skiing, to wakeboarding, to relaxing sunset cruises, you can get on the water and cool down on warm summer days.

The Tri-Cities area is also home to numerous parks, each with its own unique characteristics. Bays Mountain Park in Kingsport boasts hiking and mountain biking trails, a planetarium and animal habitats. Kingsport is also home to Warriors' Path State Park offering camping, swimming, boating, fishing and more. Additionally, you can explore the greenspace of Founder's Park in downtown Johnson City or the trails of Steele Creek Park in Bristol, TN. *(continued...)*





About the Tri-Cities *(continued...)*

Arts, Culture & Food:

The Tri-Cities are home to a vibrant music, arts and culture scene. As the “Birthplace of Country Music,” where the Carter family recorded the 1927 Bristol Sessions, Bristol, Tennessee/Virginia has branded itself as a major destination for music lovers of all ages. Now, to commemorate this history, the Birthplace of Country Music museum, a Smithsonian affiliate, serves as an educational tool and popular tourist attraction. Add to that the Bristol Rhythm & Roots music festival, which welcomes nearly 50,000 guests every September, and Bristol is a destination for music entertainment. Bristol is also home to Bristol Motor Speedway, nicknamed “The World’s Fastest Half Mile”. The track is a favorite among NASCAR fans as they are welcomed throughout the region every spring and summer.

Just minutes North of Bristol, along I-81, historic Abingdon, Virginia brings another welcome cultural attraction to the Tri-Cities. The nation’s longest running professional theatre, Barter Theatre, has made its home in Abingdon since 1933. Step back in time and enjoy a tall tale or two at the International Storytelling Center in Jonesborough, Tennessee (Tennessee’s oldest town). If you dig old things, nearby in Gray, Tennessee you can see fossils from animals and plants that lives approximately five million years ago. The Hands On! Discovery Center and Gray Fossil Site offer interactive displays for all ages and is an active archeological dig site.

Food and drink are another staple of the Tri-Cities. With a focus on local, farm to table cuisine, each of the Tri-Cities has its own unique gastro scene. Many of the restaurants in the area have been nominated for or won awards for their unique approach to southern cuisine, their inspiring use of local ingredients or their inventive combinations of international flavors.

With nearly a dozen local breweries, four wineries, three moonshine distilleries and now a vodka distillery, the Tri-Cities area is still living up to its reputation as “Little Chicago” which it earned during prohibition for its ties to bootlegging. Today, you can take advantage of this vibrant history by participating in the “Brewly Noted” beer trail which incorporates many of the Tri-Cities breweries. *(continued...)*



About the Tri-Cities *(continued...)*

Why Everybody Loves the area:

- In 2018, both Abingdon and Johnson City were named top adventure towns by Blue Ridge Outdoors.
- Bristol's State Street, where Tennessee and Virginia meet, was named one of 2018's fifteen Great Places in America by the American Planning Association.
- Abingdon was named one of USA Today's Ten Best Small Town Food Scenes in 2018.

Employers, Schools & Health:

Several major employers have centers of operation within the Tri-Cities including Eastman, Bell (formerly Bell Helicopter), BAE Systems, Universal Fibers and Ballad Health. All told, the top ten employers in the Tri-Cities, provide 10,000 jobs with boundless opportunities for expansion.

For parents, the Tri-Cities area offers fantastic local school systems with small class sizes. In 2018, Bristol and Kingsport City Schools were ranked as the fourth best school system in the nation for teachers. Dobyys-Bennett High School in Kingsport is one of the top twenty high schools in the state of Tennessee. Several private and Christian-affiliated schools are also available throughout the Tri-Cities.

East Tennessee State University with a population of over 14,000 students is located in Johnson City.

Thanks to one of the Tri-Cities largest employers, Ballad Health, the region offers exceptional medical care including a highly recognized cardiac center. Ballad Health is an integrated healthcare system serving 29 counties in Northeast Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, Northwest North Carolina and Southeast Kentucky. They operate a family of 21 hospitals which include three tertiary medical centers, a dedicated children's hospital, community hospitals, three critical access hospitals, long-term care facilities, and home care and hospice services. James H. Quillen VA Medical Center is an active tertiary care facility in Johnson City.

Important Links:

[Tri-Cities Airport](#)

[Northeast Tennessee](#) - America's First Frontier

[Bristol Tennessee](#) - Birthplace of Country Music

[Kingsport Tennessee](#)

[Johnson City Tennessee](#) - Tennessee's Green City

[Bristol Virginia](#)





The Position

The **Executive Director** reports to the Airport Authority Board and is responsible for general administrative leadership of all Airport employees with direct supervision over the executive management team of the Authority.

Supervisory Duties & Responsibilities

- A. Design and Implement the strategic development of the airport with coordination of goals and policies with the Airport Authority.
- B. Maintain a strong collaborative working relationship with the Board of Commissioners, assist the Board in its policy-making duties by providing relevant information; share activities, opportunities, and risk to include options and potential consequences; and enable the Board and its Committees to make well informed decisions.
- C. Plan, direct, and ensure a safe, secure, customer-friendly and efficient airport.
- D. Provide clear guidance and direction to the Authority's staff, integrating and coordinating all departments to ensure a collaborative work environment that achieves the Authority's strategic vision and mission.
- E. Development and management of airside and landside facilities and services. Actively solicit and obtain, to the greatest degree possible, federal, state and local grant funds to develop and enhance the Authority's airport facilities and maintain facilities' status as modern, safe and efficient.
- F. Continually, creatively, and persuasively work to attract new air service to Tri-Cities Airport and ensure new and existing airline relationships and partnerships are well-maintained.
- G. Enforce federal, state, and local rules and regulations governing the Airport's use.
- H. Establish financial philosophies for stable long-term operation and development and approve all budgets.
- I. Submit requests for federal aid, security, and certification applications; all federal, state and local government applications and forms.
- J. Ensure compliance with legal aspects of airport operation.
- K. Promote projects and initiatives that reflect the priorities and values of the region by developing strong civic partnerships with governmental bodies, legislative representatives, economic development enterprises, convention and trade bureaus, chambers of commerce, and the business community with the goal of enhancing regional economic development.



Position Qualifications

B.S. degree in business or aviation management, or a related field. Seven years' experience in senior management of a certified air carrier airport is preferred as is certification as an Accredited Airport Executive of American Association of Airport Executives or International Airport Professional of Airports Council International. Proficiency in governmental entity relations and economic development initiatives is also preferred.

Salary & Compensation

The starting salary range for this position is \$150,000 - \$185,000 with an attractive benefits package.

How to Apply:

To apply online, [click here](#).

Filing Deadline: **Wednesday, November 14, 2018**

Project Manager:

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