



The Richland-Lexington Airport District Invites Applications for

Executive Director

Columbia Metropolitan Airport (CAE)

Columbia, South Carolina

Executive Search Services Provided by ADK Consulting & Executive Search

The Airport

Columbia Metropolitan Airport (CAE) stands out as one of the beacons of commerce in the heart of South Carolina. A beautiful terminal and a sweeping landscaped entrance create a warm welcome mat for the airport's customers.

CAE is a small-hub, commercial service airport with 534,884 enplanements in 2017 and annual aircraft operations of 51,000. The current year operating budget is \$17.5 million dollars and CAE has a staff of 58 employees.

The Columbia Metropolitan Airport is formally recognized as the Richland-Lexington Airport District (RLAD) and is a special purpose district of the state of South Carolina. The RLAD is governed by 12 commissioners. Five members are appointed by the Lexington County Legislative Delegation, five members are appointed by the Richland County Legislative Delegation, and two members are appointed by the City Council of the City of Columbia. Commission members serve up to two consecutive four year terms or until their successors are appointed.

Columbia Metropolitan Airport is a major economic engine for South Carolina's Midlands region. As a self-sufficient entity, the airport doesn't receive any state and local tax dollars yet generates an estimated \$847 million for the state of South Carolina.

Numerous tenants enhance the revenue stream and call CAE home. Over 40 businesses operate on the airport's campus and create a combined total of over 1,871 full time jobs with a direct payroll of nearly \$80 million. Local support of CAE helps the airport continue to put more dollars back into the local economy and it allows the airport to compete for bigger planes, new air service and better fares.

The airport offers over 30 non-stop flights to 9 major airports in 8 cities. In addition, cargo service is provided by UPS, which operates its Southeast Air Hub out of CAE. Significant aviation business operators at the airport include Eagle Aviation and Columbia Aviation.

Recently completed projects at the airport include a new public safety facility, 5-acre solar farm, and taxiway rehab project. Underway is a terminal renovation project to include mechanical, HVAC, interior upfit, and improved passenger circulation; construction of administrative offices in terminal; and replacement of boarding bridges. Upcoming projects include an in-line baggage system, airline ticketing area improvements, and continued taxiway improvements.





Columbia: The Real Southern Hot Spot

In the heart of South Carolina, tradition and tomorrow pair perfectly in Columbia. It's a modern city where stately buildings buzz with new businesses, and centuries-old sites give rise to fresh perspectives. It's got all the gracious charm you'd expect from a Southern destination – nothing saccharine, just good old-fashioned kindness. As home to both the state's capital and its largest university, it's a vibrant city and creative hub that's bursting with big ideas, forward thinkers and modern attitudes. With dynamite shopping, food and tons to see and do year-round, it's the real Southern hot spot. It doesn't take long to get from the middle of town to what seems like the middle of nowhere. Yet it's manageable without the headaches and hassles common to many other larger cities. With evidence of renewal everywhere, Columbia SC will leave you looking forward to what's next. Welcome to the new, modern South.

Creative, Unexpected Energy – From artists and musicians to web developers and tech luminaries, many who work in creative industries choose to call Columbia SC home. Their innovation and imaginative spirit weave a progressive strand through the region's otherwise quaint, traditional culture. The Nickelodeon Theatre, South Carolina's only non-profit art house cinema, is a treasured gem in the heart of the city that offers a mix of independent films, media education programs and curated series. More than 200 pieces of public art dapple the region bringing surprise and delight to all who discover them. Columbia Museum of Art, located in the Main Street District houses permanent collections as well as rotating exhibits. Catch a music concert featuring a big-name headliner or a rising star at The Music Farm, Township Auditorium and Colonial Life Arena.

City Meets Nature – Columbia SC lies at the confluence of the Saluda and Broad Rivers, which merge right in town to form the Congaree. The region is flush with regional parks and opportunities for outdoor adventures. And with so many trails, gardens and Lake Murray nearby, there are plenty of opportunities to escape the bustling city and get lost in your thoughts amidst fresh air, cool waters and old growth hardwood forests. Congaree National Park is the only national park in the state of South Carolina and offers the largest intact expanse of old growth bottomland hardwood forest remaining in the southeastern United States. Hike the scenic boardwalk or kayak along the Congaree Creek which runs through the park.

Hot Spot for All Ages – With a never-ending roster of live music events, festivals and sporting events, it's hard to be bored in Columbia SC. You can discover something new for every day of the year with Soda City Market on Saturday mornings, First Thursdays on Main, Indie Grits in April and the Gervais Street Bridge Dinner in October. For families, we have the acclaimed Riverbanks Zoo & Garden, EdVenture Children's Museum, Saluda Shoals Park, and more. Or explore the capital city bite by bite with Columbia Food Tours. In Columbia SC, there are more things to do than there are hours to do them.



Culinary – Definitely fit for foodies, Southern staples like shrimp and grits or chicken and waffles are off the charts. And with a climate conducive to year-round, farm-fresh ingredients, lucky for us, chefs who know just what to do with them have flocked here from all over. Find chef-driven menus at cozy, elegant restaurants or sit family-style and make new friends at a long-standing BBQ joint. Additionally, a number of craft breweries and distilleries have made Columbia their home over the last few years. Find Columbia-crafted beverages at River Rat, Swamp Cabbage and Columbia Craft breweries, among many others.

Fresh Perspectives, Intellectual Diversity – What do you get when you douse a thriving metropolis with an annual influx of college students and legislators? A vibrant city that’s bursting with big ideas, forward thinkers and modern attitudes. Columbia SC is home to a host of initiatives committed to fostering future-forward economic development. And being a college town has plenty of other perks, such as athletics (think over 80,000 Gamecock fans decked in garnet and black taking in a football game at Williams Brice Stadium and being selected as a host site for the NCAA Men’s Regional Basketball Tournament in March of 2018) and opportunities for continuing education and programs.

Neighborhoods & Districts – Our dynamic region is rich with a variety of neighborhoods and districts. From shopping and dining in The Vista, Main Street, and Devine Street Districts, to the tree-lined streets and trendy restaurants of Forest Acres the Columbia region has many places to call “home” – whatever that feels like to you. Lake Murray and Chapin offers small-town charm, wooded green spaces and waterfront views. Lexington boasts award-winning schools and a burgeoning family scene. North Columbia and the Bull Street District offer historic neighborhoods, quirky coffee shops and the new Spirit Communications Park, home of the Columbia Fireflies minor league baseball team (an affiliate of the New York Mets organization).

Taking Care of Business – Columbia SC is a great place to conduct business. Our 142,000 square-foot Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center is located in the heart of The Vista, just blocks from the South Carolina State House, and within walking distances to hotels, restaurants and shops. And with the University of South Carolina and six other colleges and universities nearby, the opportunities for making connections is endless. Economic development teams at the City of Columbia, Richland County, Lexington County and throughout the greater region are working together with business leaders and other movers and shakers in the area to recruit businesses, retain talent and make our region stand out amongst the competition.



**Columbia
South Carolina**





The Position

The Executive Director is appointed by and serves at the will of the Richland-Lexington Airport District Commission (“Commission”). The Executive Director receives general policy direction from the Commission and is responsible for the overall business operations, administration, human resources, financing, marketing, community relations, air service development, maintenance, safety, security and planning and development of the Richland- Lexington Airport District (“District”) and related airport facilities.

The Executive Director is responsible for:

- Air Service, Airport Development & Public Relations
- Labor & Personnel
- Finances, Contracts & Planning
- Operations, Facilities & Construction

Additional responsibilities include:

- Apprising Commission Members in a timely manner of developments, issues, needs and operations of the airport
- Applying a high degree of knowledge and expertise relating to the developments in the aviation industry and the implication for aviation
- Understanding and keeping up to date on local, national, and international policies and trends that affect the organization and its stakeholders
- Demonstrating flexibility and rapidly adapting to new information, changing conditions or unexpected obstacles; taking informed risks; exhibiting sound judgment and decision making

For a full job description, [click here](#).





Salary & Compensation

The salary range for the Executive Director is \$175,000 - \$245,000.

Benefits include:

- SC State Retirement System
- Insurance (Health, Medical, Dental and Vision)
- Life Insurance
- Vacation, Sick & Personal Time
- Tuition Reimbursement Program
- SC Deferred Comp Program (401K) Voluntary Program Matching up to 6% of salary
- Vehicle Allowance
- Relocation Benefits

Airport photos by **John E. Powell, Photographer.**

How to Apply:

A. Please submit both a **cover letter and résumé.** **We require your files to be submitted as PDF documents.** We prefer that you send both your cover letter and résumé as one combined document. *Please do not send your cover letter in the body of an email.* Send your PDF files to ADK Executive Search at:
CAEED@adkexecutivesearch.com

B. Please complete the ADK employment application form at: **[ADK Application Form](#)** (*this is a secure link*)

Filing Deadline: Friday, March 16, 2018

Only complete electronic submissions will be considered.

Email questions to:
CAEED@adkexecutivesearch.com