The Grand Junction Regional Airport Authority invites applications for Executive Director

Grand Junction, Colorado

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The Airport

Grand Junction Regional Airport (GJT) has served Grand Junction, CO and the Grand Valley since 1930. GJT is an important transportation and business hub for Western Colorado and Eastern Utah. Grand Junction, CO is located approximately half-way between Salt Lake City, UT and Denver, CO on the Colorado/Utah border.

GJT has been a strategic partner in the economic growth of Western Colorado. The airport supports over 1,000 jobs and has a total economic impact of $380 million per year for the Grand Junction area. Four major airlines and a Scheduled Charter provide nationwide service from GJT. Passengers enjoy direct service to six major hub airports including Dallas/Ft. Worth, Phoenix, Denver, Salt Lake City, Las Vegas, and seasonal service to Los Angeles. American, United, Delta and Allegiant Airlines recorded 225,504 passenger enplanements in calendar year 2016. Adding to GJT’s economic strength, Fed Ex and UPS landed just over 4.5 million pounds of cargo last year. This activity in 2016 combined with a healthy general aviation component, provided GJT with 45,001 aircraft operations. This also ranks GJT as Colorado’s 4th largest commercial airport in the state based on enplanements.

The airport's runway/taxiway system consists of two paved asphalt runways. (RWYs 11/29 and 4/22). Runway 11/29 is 10,501 feet long and it is the main runway for GJT. Runway 4/22 is 5,502 feet long. Impressive infrastructure and year-round exceptional weather secure GJT as the 2nd busiest diversion airport in Colorado. The most common airports that use GJT for their diversion plans consist of Aspen, Eagle/Vail, Denver and Salt Lake City.

The first flight in Grand Junction, CO took place August 27, 1912. The newspapers called it “Aviation Day” and this was the beginning of the tradition of air shows in Grand Junction. Today West Star Aviation in partner with GJT hosts an impressive air show every two years. It has been named one of the most exciting air shows in Colorado and in 2017 will feature the USAF Thunderbirds along with many additional military and non-military aircraft and static displays.
The Airport (continued…)

GJT has a world class FBO with West Star Aviation. West Star Aviation occupies over 281,824 sq ft of hangar, shop and office space located on approximately 32 acres. This includes dedicated maintenance hangars, interior, cabinet, and avionics shops, as well as a state-of-the art paint facility. West Star Aviation currently employs over 400 full-time individuals. This highly trained and experienced staff includes ODAR approval for maintenance, FlightSafety and/or SimuFlite trained technicians and many veteran factory-trained technicians. In addition to offering complete, world-class fueling support services, West Star Aviation GJT specializes in business aircraft maintenance, modifications, and refurbishment for aircraft ranging in size from turboprop to long-range business jets.

Other businesses that call GJT home include the Bureau of Land Management Fire Center, Commemorative Air Force Museum – Rocky Mountain Wing, Civil Air Patrol – Colorado Wing Headquarters, Twin Otter International, and Colorado Flight Center Inc. just to name a few.

The Grand Junction Regional Airport Authority has a seven-member board that is charged with setting policy and overseeing the operations of Grand Junction Regional Airport. The board ensures compliance with its By-laws, the State of Colorado Public Airport Authority Law and with FAA regulations.

Grand Junction Regional Airport an outstanding facility and Grand Junction, CO an excellent place to live, work and play.
The Community

Grand Junction, Colorado is a scenic community located on the western desert slopes of the Rockies. It was founded in 1881. Midway between Denver and Salt Lake City along Interstate 70, this unique, home rule municipality encompasses 38 square miles at an elevation of 4,592 feet, and is the most populous municipality in Mesa County and western Colorado. Having grown by 40% to just over 60,000 residents since 2000, the City remains a major commercial and transportation hub serving a region of 150,000. Grand Junction has been recognized as the No. 12 "Best Small Place for Business & Career," the No. 19 "Best U.S. City for a Tech Startup," as well as "Top 5 in Colorado for Manufacturing."

The Grand Valley is home to over 20 wineries and is known as Colorado's "wine country" sitting atop the convergence of the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers. The result is a lush, agricultural valley with orchards that date back to the 1880's. In addition to year-round access to vineyards, Grand Junction overlooks the awe-inspiring red rock landscape of the Colorado National Monument to its west. The area has developed into a major recreational destination, attracting outdoor enthusiasts such as mountain bikers, snow and water skiers, hikers, hunters and campers from all over Colorado, the United States and internationally. Grand Junction Regional Airport is located just north of the city, a 15 minute drive from downtown.

Grand Junction's "small-town feel" and picturesque beauty make it a desirable location for business development as well as an ideal environment to live and raise a family. Excellent educational services are available at every level. Colorado Mesa University, with an average annual enrollment of about 10,000 students, Western Colorado Community College and Mesa County Valley School District all actively contribute to the community.

Grand Junction has been named one of the 8 sunniest cities in the United States, boasting more than 275 days of sunshine annually. These attributes make Grand Junction an amazing recreational destination for golfers, outdoorsmen, biking enthusiasts, water sports fans, etc. The City draws three million visitors annually by hosting events and festivals that highlight the 20 wineries, handful of breweries, and unlimited recreational opportunities, solidifying tourism as one of Mesa County's top 3 industries. (continued...)
With over 10,000 miles of trails, Grand Junction is truly the Trails Capital of Colorado. Mountain bikes take advantage of a beautiful trail system in Palisade, Grand Junction and Fruita. Some of the more well know areas are the Lunch Loops – named due to the proximity to downtown Grand Junction allowing employees to access excellent terrain within an hour lunch, 18 Road in Fruita, Kokopelli and Rabbit Valley trail systems at the West End of the Valley.

Mesa County is home to Colorado National Monument, which attracts more than 400,000 visitors annually. The Town of Palisade is a sought-after destination with its rich history of growing Palisade peaches. The town is also the home of Colorado Wine Country. Palisade boasts 17 wineries and 22 orchards, and hosts many festivals, including the Bluegrass and Roosts Festival, the Lavender Festival, the Palisade Peach Festival, and the Colorado Mountain Winefest.

This community is home to many arts and cultural amenities. For a community of our size, there is a surprisingly diverse selection of activities. We boast a diverse menu of musical and theatrical productions ranging from the Grand Junction Symphony, the Country Jam and Rock Jam music festivals, vineyard concert series, Colorado Mountain Wine Festival, Palisade Peach Festival, Fruita Fat Tire Festival and the Mike the Headless Chicken Festival, just to name a few. The recent renovation of the Historic Avalon Theater has opened up Grand Junction to a range of new performers including Bela Fleck, Lyle Lovett, and others.

Grand Junction offers its next Airport Executive Director an excellent environment for professional challenges, quality of life and the opportunity to build on these fundamental qualities.
The Position

The Executive Director is accountable to and executes the policies established by the Airport Authority Board; including all strategic, financial, marketing and operational goals and strategies. All authority of this position is delegated by the Airport Authority Board of Commissioners.

The position’s essential responsibilities include:

• Developing and implementing systems and processes that will facilitate the Board of Commissioners in their decision-making process and keep the Board informed of all pertinent Airport Authority issues and activities.

• Developing and implementing systems and processes that will facilitate the creation of a positive business environment for tenants.

• Monitoring and executing all financial activities for the successful operation of the Airport.

• Development and execution of short- and long-range Airport business plans.

• Ensuring the safe and efficient operation of the Airport and all related activities.

• Ensuring the recruitment, hiring and development of all personnel, both direct reports and indirect reports, throughout the organization to assure a steady flow of skills, talent and promotional opportunities in the execution of the Airport’s business plan.

• Maintaining a positive public image of the Airport.

Position Qualifications

The successful candidate will have a four-year degree from an accredited college in business, finance or aviation management and will have a minimum of five years of progressive management responsibilities and experience. A combination of education and experience could waive any specific requirements.

Additionally, the ideal candidate will demonstrate a strong financial and accounting understanding, superior written and verbal communication skills, at have at least five years’ experience supervising and managing senior management personnel in a similar size organization, strong leadership experience, and the ability to develop positive working relationships with community leaders, board commissioners, agency representative, tenants, employees and other stakeholders.

For a complete job description, click here.
Compensation & Benefits
The Salary is $160,000 with an excellent benefit package.

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 resume 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: GJTED@adkexecutivesearch.com

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

Filing Deadline: Sunday, September 10, 2017

Only complete electronic submissions will be considered.

Email questions to: GJTED@adkexecutivesearch.com