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Asheville Airport names new deputy director

Posted by [Jake Frankel](#) in [News](#) |

Here's the press release:

November 15, 2010 – Fletcher, NC – The Asheville Regional Airport Authority (ARAA) soon will welcome Mike Reisman as the new Deputy Director of Development and Operations. Reisman, who is leaving his position as the Greeley-Weld County (Colo.) Airport Manager, will begin at AVL on January 4.

“After an extensive nation-wide search for a new deputy director, I am very pleased that Mr. Reisman has accepted the position,” said Lew Bleiweis, AVL Airport Director. “His more than 23 years of experience in the aviation industry, evidenced by his professional successes in growing the Greeley-Weld County Airport during the past 14 years, will bring positive leadership to development and operations at Asheville Regional Airport. I am looking forward to working with Mike to continue to position AVL well for continued growth.”

Reisman is a former military air traffic controller, and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in professional aeronautics with concentrations in aviation management and air traffic control technology. He has held management positions at the Richmond International Airport, the Fort Worth, Texas Department of Aviation, and most recently at the Greeley-Weld County Airport. He is a licensed pilot, a certified Aircraft Rescue Firefighter, and is professionally accredited by the American Association of Airport Executives.

Reisman's most recent accomplishments as the manager of the Greeley, Colorado-based general aviation airport helped to position the organization for continued growth. Specifically, Reisman's development expertise led to growth in real estate acquisitions, which doubled the campus size and resulted in a 53% growth in private development projects. In addition, the airport realized a 72% increase in airport-based aircraft, and finally, Reisman led the efforts to construct a 10,000 foot runway – a strategic move to position the airport well into the future. Over Reisman's 14 year tenure at the Greeley-Weld County Airport, the facility's annual economic impact on the local community increased by over 300 percent.

“I am looking forward to joining the team at the Asheville Regional Airport, and getting started in my new position. The facility has experienced impressive growth thus far, and has aggressive plans for continued growth and development. I am excited and prepared to become part of the team that will help lead the airport down a road of continued success.”

In addition to airport management, Reisman is avidly involved in community work, including five years of service on the Greeley, Colo. Chamber of Commerce board of Directors, and three years as chairman of the Chamber's “Better Schools, Better Communities” committee. He previously served seven years on the Greeley Convention and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors, including as its Chairman, and is currently the immediate past-president of the Colorado Airport Operators Association.

http://www.mountainx.com/blogwire/2010/ashevill_airport_names_new_deputy_director

TheTribune

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Greeley's airport manager resigns from post

After more than 14 years, Greeley's airport manager is taking flight.

Mike Reisman, who has navigated the Greeley-Weld County Airport's development since 1996, has accepted the position as second in command at the Asheville Regional Airport in Fletcher, N.C., a regional airport that shuttles about 300,000 to 400,000 passengers a year through its gates.

Reisman's resignation was made public Wednesday and is somewhat bittersweet.

"My departure from this job has nothing to do with this job, the airport, or the board, or the tenants or staff," Reisman said. "I have a lot of years and vested interest in the growth and development of the Greeley airport. ... The board has been good and has had confidence in me, and supported me. That's not the kind of job to run away from.

"Like a lot of people I've become concerned about the quality of life my kids will have growing up here, and the fact is, by moving them to where we're going, they're going to be in one of top 10 performing school districts in the nation, which has become increasingly important in our circumstances."

Reisman will stay on through the end of the year. He starts his new job the first week of January, and his wife and two children will stay in Greeley to try to sell the house. Conceivably, they could remain in Greeley through the end of the school year.

"I'll tell you, it's a sad day really," said Charles Archibeque, vice chairman of the Airport Authority, and one of the members of the board who brought Reisman here from his position in Fort Worth, Texas. "Mike has been a wonderful manager, and he's done so much for the airport. Financially, it's the best shape it's ever been in its history, and Mike was very instrumental in helping us get there."

Among Reisman's biggest accomplishments: Getting the planned 10,000-foot-long runway project off the ground, which was seen as a move to make the airport more competitive in the future.

Today, Reisman said, the airport's economic impact in the Greeley area amounts to \$121 million annually. In 1996, the airport's impact was at \$28 million, he said.

"In fourteen and a half years, I'd say my greatest achievement is the fact that this airport has truly become a much larger economic engine for this community," Reisman said. "We still have corporate jets operating out of here on a daily basis. From a growth perspective in the time I've been here, we've seen a 72 percent growth in the number of based aircraft. We've seen a 35 percent growth in number of private development projects, and obviously with the acquisition of land, we've seen close to a doubling of the size of the airport."

The airport is home to the corporate jets of JBS and Hensel Phelps Construction, as well as receiving corporate flights from State Farm.

Reisman also was able to secure a long-term funding source for the airport, negotiating a contract over the years with Noble Energy to develop oil and gas in and around the airport. Development began in March 2009, and in the first year, royalties generated more than \$1 million to the airport – money the airport authority is largely socking away in investments for future projects.

"This year in 2010, we've tried to take a conservative approach and programmed about \$600,000 to \$700,000, but at end of October, we were already in excess of \$900,000 in revenue," Reisman said.

Airport Authority Chairman Bill Garcia said a national search will begin soon. In the interim, he said, Reisman has created a situation where the airport can run in his absence.

"He's been with us for so long, that airport has his fingerprints all over it," Garcia said.

<http://www.greeleytribune.com/article/20101111/NEWS/101119953>