



The Moore County Airport Authority invites applications for
Airport Director

Moore County Airport (SOP)
Pinehurst, NC

*Welcome to Moore County Airport, the aviation gateway to the
Home of American Golf.*

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The Opportunity

Moore County Airport is searching for an Airport Director who can build on the success of the current Director who has retired after years of service. The airport is a modern, well-equipped and financially strong operation which serves the Home of American Golf, which includes the Village of Pinehurst and the Sandhills region of North Carolina. The following pages will introduce the successful candidate to the airport, the community, and goals to be achieved.

In the most global terms, the Sandhills are a special part of the planet. It's a unique nexus of great weather, astounding natural beauty, surprising people and fascinating history. The legendary hospitality of the South is alive and well in the Sandhills. The welcome you will receive is enthusiastic and genuine: we truly are glad to see you.

From the airport, the entire region is available easily, quickly, inexpensively and conveniently. Distances are short. Prices are reasonable. Traffic jams simply don't exist. There are more fine restaurants in the Sandhills than in many far-bigger cities. To many from the crowded North, it seems like a tiny bit of Heaven. We are inclined to agree.





The Opportunity *(continued)*

Moore County Airport was established in 1929 when the Tufts family, founders of the Pinehurst Resort, carved out a dirt runway and named it “Knollwood Airport.” During World War II, the airport was leased to the Army Air Corps. Large-scale military exercises were conducted at the field, testing techniques used on D-Day and elsewhere. The original airport hangar is still on the field, just west of the rotating beacon. The terminal building features a photo of Amelia Earhart and her airplane in front of this historic building.

Today the airport offers a 6,500-foot runway equipped with state-of-the-art instrument approaches and lighting accommodating about 30,000 operations annually. There is a flight school and about 90 hangars with eighteen more under construction. The airport is stable economically and is the only County-owned facility which is operationally self-sustaining.

The mission of the airport is to serve as an engine of economic growth and opportunity. As such, the airport strongly supports the Young Eagles program, two flight schools and STEM programs featuring aviation-related themes. A recent economic analysis conducted by North Carolina State University concluded the airport contributed 305 local jobs. The combined direct and indirect benefits of the airport’s operations added \$93 million to the County’s economic pulse in 2019.





The Community

The Pinehurst area — locally known as the “Sandhills” — is in south-central North Carolina. Moore County is in the heart of the Sandhills, just a short one-hour drive from Raleigh and a two-hour drive from Charlotte. Located mid-way between New York and Miami, the area is a favorite stop-over for airplane-equipped snowbirds. It’s the best of both worlds: big city amenities with a small-town feel.

With a population of over 100,000 people, Moore County was one of the top 10 fastest growing counties in NC from 2020 to 2021. Forty percent of the county’s population is concentrated in our three most populous towns of Pinehurst, Southern Pines, and Aberdeen.

The Pinehurst area is home to over 43 legendary golf courses but there are other industries as well. There are stellar equestrian facilities which attract visitors from across the globe. Fort Bragg, the largest U.S. Army base in the world, is the headquarters for the Army Special Forces and is located just ten miles to the east. The superb clinicians at the regional medical center, First Health, operate a marvelous, award-winning 88-bed hospital and attract patients seeking specialized treatments from across the country.

The Moore County community actively supports the public school system as evidenced by a recent \$103 million bond issue. The population is bolstered by retirees who bring their sophistication and affluence but do not burden the school system. The cost of living is lower than most areas. An average home sells for \$396,000, which is highly affordable compared to other parts of the U.S. Official crime statistics indicate Moore County is one of the safest locales on the East Coast.

Moore County’s excellent public school system boasts three high schools supported by a large network of elementary and middle schools. There also are several private and charter schools in the region. The district’s four-year high school graduation rate is 91%, well above the state average. In 2019, 81% of graduates received at least one acceptance to a college or university. Students following a vocational career path attained more than 3,900 industry-recognized certifications or credentials.

Sandhills Community College, located adjacent to the Airport, has approximately 4,000 students enrolled in college-credit curriculum courses and over 11,000 students who take continuing education courses annually. The college has a strong emphasis on job-related training (a professional pilot program, plus mechanical skills, computers, medical training, and agriculture).



The Community *(continued)*

Cultural activities abound in the Sandhills. The Carolina Philharmonic Orchestra offers performances on a regular schedule and numerous guest performers appear at the Community College with its large, well-equipped theater. On the other extreme, “The Roosters Wife” is a tiny venue featuring an enormous variety of grassroots music. The Sunrise Theatre shows vintage movies and stages live performances. Kids love the Safari Zoo in Carthage which is more of an animal sanctuary and rescue center than a zoo. The unique Ederville Steam Museum features full-functional and slightly scary steam-driven machines rescued from the 19th century.

In terms of day-to-day living, there are casual dining spots, brew pubs, wine shops, gourmet restaurants and many specialty stores; Southern Pines is particularly well-known for boutiques and unique stores. There are street festivals like the Autumn Festival in Southern Pines, the Pinehurst Barbecue Festival, the “Tour Du Moore” bike race, and the hugely popular, family friendly “First Friday” parties which run in downtown Southern Pines from Spring until the chills of autumn. Even the Airport gets into the fun with the “Festival d’Avion” every September. There’s lots to do in Moore County.

Despite all of these amenities, taxes remain very low when compared to states like Connecticut or California.

It’s All About Golf

The main reason so many retirees, executives and professionals move to Moore County is the golf. The Pinehurst Resort alone features nine world-class courses including the world-renowned Pinehurst #2. The famous “North-South Amateur” is always played on the Pinehurst courses and is the longest continually operating tournament in North America. The U.S. Open Championship returned to the famed Pinehurst No. 2 in 1999 and was won by Payne Stewart. It was back again in 2005, and 2014 Pinehurst hosted both the Men’s and the Women’s Opens. The Women’s Open returned this year, in 2022, and the Men’s Open will return to Pinehurst in 2024 and then again every five years. Pinehurst #2 has hosted more national championships than any other golf course in the world.

Moore County also is home to the Peggy Kirk Bell tour for young ladies. The U.S. Kids tournament annually brings 2,200 of the world’s best junior golfers, ages five to eighteen, to battle on the courses here. The U.S. Golf Association is building their second headquarters in Pinehurst. Golf Pride, the maker of golf club grips, has based its research facility here and the World Golf Hall of Fame has just announced it is relocating from Florida to Pinehurst. So yes, it’s all about the golf, and the airport is a big part of that equation.





The Position

The Airport Director manages all the activities of the Moore County Airport and the airport's exclusive fixed based operator (FBO). The Director reports to the five-member Airport Authority and provides leadership for the Authority's eighteen employees engaged in a variety of airport planning, development, operations, safety, administrative and customer service activities. He or she also will manage the Airport's ten-year capital improvement program, so the Director is the primary catalyst in ensuring the program proceeds on schedule and budget.

The Director promotes the Airport's mission, vision and values to all stakeholders including tenants, pilots, passengers, employees and the non-flying general public. The Director also identifies funding opportunities and takes the lead in applying for Federal, state and local grants. Since the Moore County Airport serves the high-end leisure customer traveling to the Pinehurst area for equestrian and golf opportunities, the Director must ensure the culture of the Airport has a customer-service focus.

The Airport Director is responsible for communicating and implementing the Airport's customer service mission with employees and tenants. He or she must also be "future-focused," with the ability to envision programs designed to improve services, increase Airport capacity and ensure safety, without compromising customer service.

The Airport Director also is responsible for all aspects of airport management including revenue generation. He or she represents the Airport Authority to outside interests including governmental agencies, community groups, public service organizations, and industry associations. The Director works with staff to identify training opportunities to maintain Airport safety and increase employee and customer satisfaction. The Airport Director will lead the airport to the next level of innovation, safety, and the provision of an exemplary customer experience.



Preferred Experience

The ideal candidate for this position will have a 4-year degree from an accredited college or university and at least ten years' experience in a leadership role at a general aviation or air carrier airport, including experience in airport operations, grant application and administration, and management of complex airport construction projects. Certification by the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) as an Accredited Airport Executive (A.A.E.) or a Certified Member (C.M.) is highly desirable. He or she must be able to obtain a North Carolina driver's license and be able to pass a Transportation Security Administration (TSA) ten-year criminal background check.

For complete job description [click here](#).

Salary and Compensation

The salary range for this position is \$90,000 to \$160,000. A starting salary at, near, or above the top-range is possible for the exceptional candidate. Also included is an excellent benefits package. Relocation assistance will be offered.

How To Apply

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

Deadline for applications: March 12, 2023

Contacts for this search are:

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Please note: After your application is complete, you will receive an important email from us. Please check your inbox and your junk/spam folder, and if you have not received our email, please notify us at: admin@adkexecutivesearch.com.

The County of Moore is an equal opportunity employer.

