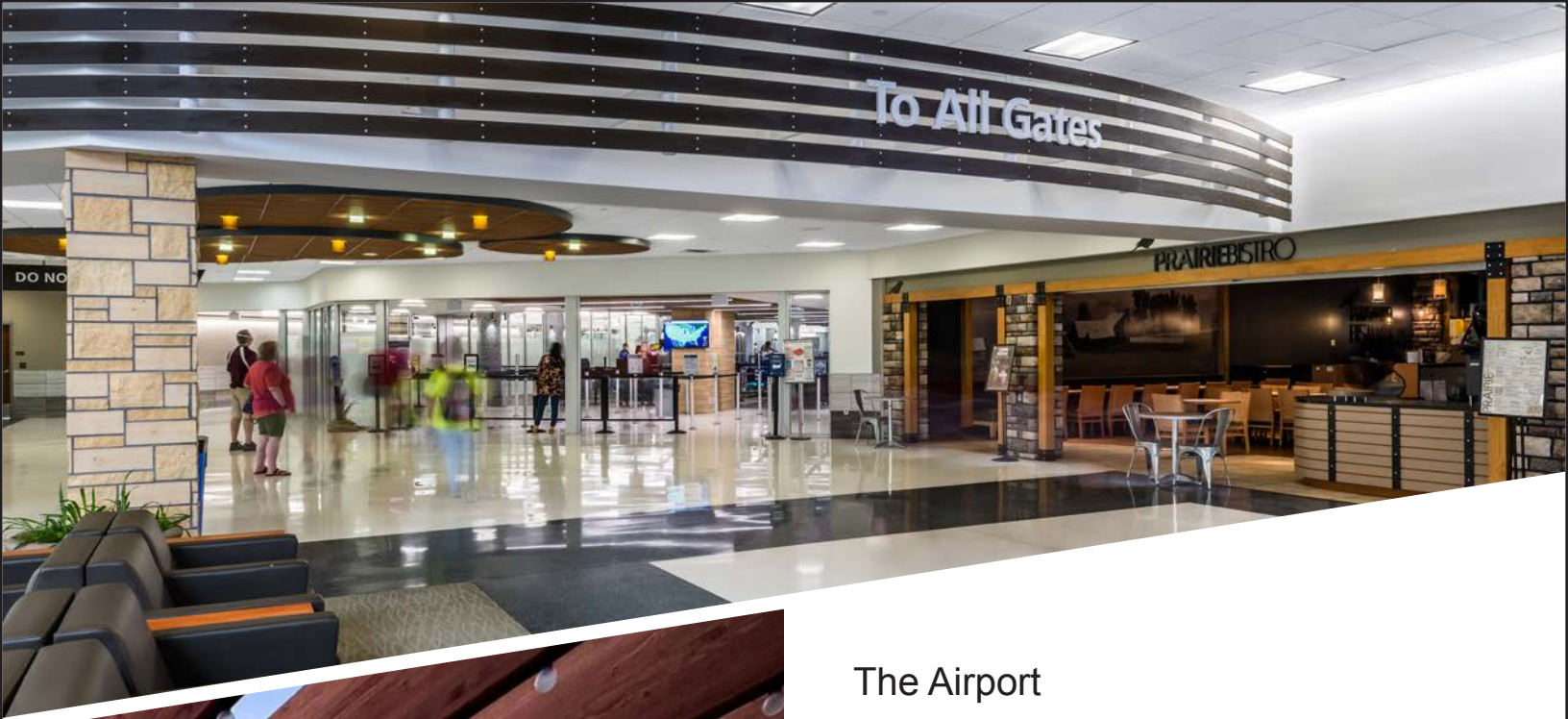




The Eastern Iowa Airport invites applications for
Director of Operations

Eastern Iowa Airport (CID)
Cedar Rapids, IA

EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES PROVIDED BY ADK CONSULTING & EXECUTIVE SEARCH



The Airport

The Eastern Iowa Airport (CID) is owned by the City of Cedar Rapids and operated autonomously by the Cedar Rapids Airport Commission. Five Commissioners are appointed to three-year terms by the Mayor and approved by the City Council. The Commission is a policy-making body and oversees Airport management. Commissioners serve on a volunteer basis.

CID is a 3,418-acre facility. The terminal opened in 1986 and expanded in 1996. It underwent a \$2 million concourse improvement project in 2009 and in 2014 began a multi-year demand driven \$121 million terminal expansion and renovation project. The modernization project includes an inline baggage handling system, a complete renovation of the ticket counters and airlines offices, baggage claim, main lobby, and exterior canopies. In addition, the B Concourse and the security checkpoint have been expanded.

Construction is underway on the fourth – and final – phase of the terminal modernization project that began in 2014. This fourth phase includes a 30,000-square-foot concourse addition, adding four jet bridges for a total of 13 bridges. Once complete in the fall of 2025, the four-phased project will total \$61 million and will have included each portion of the terminal, from the front curb, ticket counters, baggage claim, TSA security checkpoint and concourse.

In calendar year 2024, 756,123 passengers were enplaned; 42,128 operations were recorded; and 26,152 metric tons of cargo were handled. There are approximately 70 full-time equivalent Airport employees who serve the following areas: Administration, Guest Services, Facilities, Maintenance and Public Safety. In addition, there are more than 30 Airport tenants employing more than 1,000 employees.



The Airport *(continued)*

CID has benefitted from airline investment with double-digit capacity increases from the five (5) air carriers serving the market: Allegiant, American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Frontier Airlines and United Airlines. Presently, there are nonstop flights to 18 destinations providing the most options for travelers in Eastern Iowa, as well as the border regions of Illinois and Wisconsin.

There are three (3) cargo carriers at CID: DHL, FedEx and UPS, which combine to handle more than 50 percent of the state's cargo. CID has the most privately-based aircraft in Iowa – 126 – providing a very active and engaged general aviation community.

In 2022, the airport embarked on a partnership with a local community college to begin an aircraft maintenance program. In 2024, CID partnered with a private, four-year college to create an aviation management degree and flight school, to establish an aviation education workforce campus at CID.

The Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget is \$27.8 million, and the Five-Year Capital Improvement Program Budget is \$161.6 million. Projected Capital Improvements for Fiscal Year 2025 is \$56.3 million, which includes almost \$29.5 million in terminal and \$21.7 million in airfield improvements.



The Community

The Eastern Iowa Airport is located between Cedar Rapids, Iowa's second largest city, and Iowa City, home to the Big 10's University of Iowa and University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. The two cities are connected by Interstate 380, with several smaller communities located between and surrounding both locations.

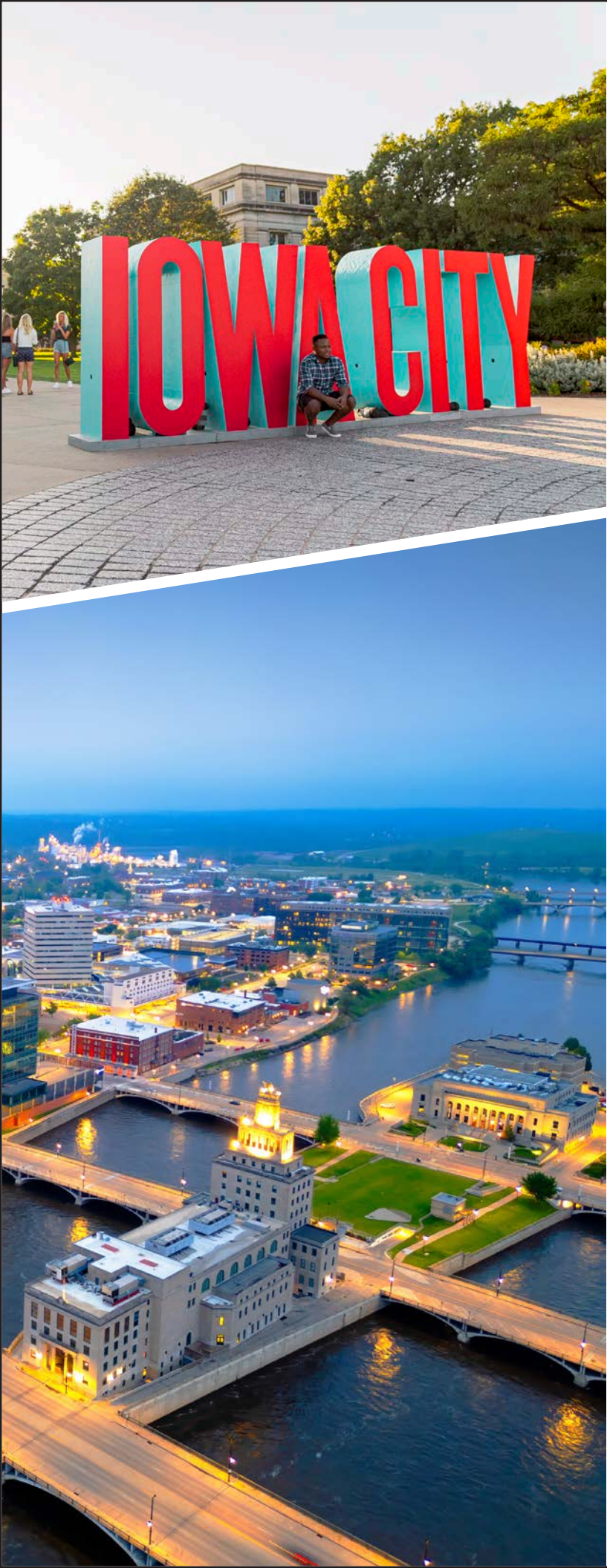
The Cedar Rapids, or northern end of the "corridor," is known for having a mix of engineers from the region's largest employers, including Collins Aerospace and BAE Systems; and food production employment with Quaker Oats and General Mills, as well as several other large employers in Cedar Rapids.

Iowa City is affectionately known for the "meds and eds" who work at the University of Iowa and the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC). The Stead Family Children's Hospital is located across from historic Kinnick Stadium and is featured during each Iowa football game with "The Wave," when everyone in the stadium turns to wave to the children and family at the Children's Hospital. The tradition has been dubbed the "nation's No. 1 college football tradition" and is a perfect example of "Iowa Nice."

From art museums to county fairs, roadside diners to high-end bistros, music in the park to Broadway productions, the opportunities to enjoy life without the long commutes you find in other cities is enjoyed here every day.

The diverse economy of the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City area helps to ensure economic stability and wide-ranging opportunities. A growing region home to almost a half a million people, other internationally recognized industries located here include Procter & Gamble, Cargill, Whirlpool, and those under construction include Sub-Zero and Google. Several smaller, yet important medical or technology-based companies also showcase the region's entrepreneurial spirit. For example, Integrated DNA Technologies was on the leading edge of creating and distributing COVID-19 tests and is a leading genomics solutions provider. Or SmartScripts, established in 2015, the entrepreneurs use the latest technology to deliver prescriptions. The area offers numerous opportunities for career growth and access to accomplished individuals.

Strong economic growth has allowed residents in these communities to enjoy a variety of excellent career opportunities and a quality of living that is second to none. Together, these two nationally recognized cities make our region one of the best in the Midwest.



The Community *(continued)*

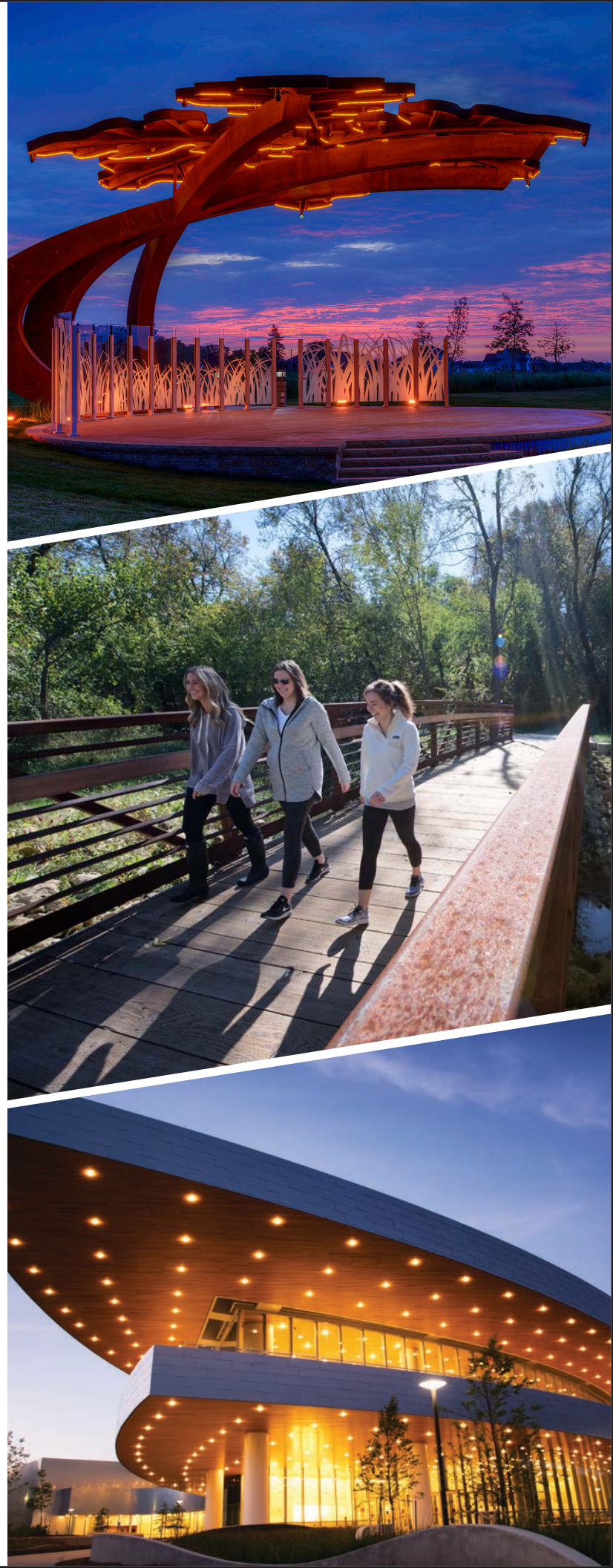
Arts and Culture

The Cedar Rapids/Iowa City area proves that you don't have to live in a large metropolitan area to indulge in cultural richness. Opportunities abound to access art, music, history and theatre.

Hancher Auditorium in Iowa City annually hosts some of the world's greatest musical and performance icons. Commissioned works by the Joffrey Ballet and other artists have made their national debuts on the Hancher Stage. Orchestra Iowa is widely recognized as the state's premier symphony orchestra and showcases world-class talent every year. Whether you love rock, jazz, dance, comedy or polka, you'll find live music and performances almost every night of the week at venues spread throughout the area. With more than 30 museums, including the African American Museum, Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, and the Stanley Museum of Art, you will find interesting exhibits and plenty to experience at a pace that lets you do more.

In 2025, U.S. and World Report announced Cedar Rapids was #12 for Best Big City for Economic Opportunity according to a Milken Institute study. Cedar Rapids is a Top 100 Best City for Jobs in America 2025 according to WalletHub and in 2024 the same organization cited Cedar Rapids as #7 Safest City in America.

For three consecutive years, Iowa City has made the list as Best Places to Live for Families, from FortuneWell. In 2024, the city was ranked 24th on the list that analyzed more than 2,000 cities. Livability ranked Iowa City in 2024 as one of the Top 100 places to live in the U.S. and it has been ranked as one of the Best College Towns in the Midwest by Conde Nast Traveler.





Position Overview

The Director of Operations is responsible for overseeing the environmental, facilities, maintenance, operations and safety functions of the airport. This role ensures continuous compliance with federal, state, and local regulations while managing airport construction, environmental initiatives, and operational programs. The position plays a key leadership role in supervising airport departments and may act on behalf of senior leadership as needed.

About the Role

This position requires a strategic leader with a deep knowledge of airport operations, safety regulations, and facility management. The Director of Operations reports to the Airport Director and is a member of the Executive team who ensures the seamless function of airport infrastructure, security, and maintenance while fostering a culture of safety, efficiency, and innovation. The Director of Operations will develop and deliver information to the Airport Authority and will participate in discussions with federal agencies for project funding and phasing. The airport is experiencing air service and economic development growth and shepherding various aviation educational programs that contribute to the regional interest and the aviation industry demand. This position will engage in a vast array of business initiatives and programs.



Key Responsibilities

- **Oversee Airport Operations & Compliance** – Develop and implement policies for airport operations, maintenance, security, and FAA/ TSA regulatory compliance (CFR Part 139, TSRs 1540/1542).
- **Supervise Airport Teams** – Lead Facilities, Maintenance, and Public Safety teams to ensure efficient operations and adherence to safety standards.
- **Manage Infrastructure & Projects** – Inspect and maintain airport infrastructure, oversee construction projects, ensure environmental stewardship, support aviation educational programs for community, coordinate vendors, and ensure quality control.
- **Financial & Resource Management** – Identify capital needs, administer budgets, approve expenditures, and optimize resource allocation for operational efficiency.
- **Stakeholder & Agency Coordination** – Collaborate with city, state, and federal agencies, tenants, and external business partners.
- **Safety & Training Leadership** – Develop safety and financially responsible culture, implement safety protocols, design efficiency practices, and ensure technical performance and compliance.

Leadership Qualities and Style

- A proactive and solutions-oriented leader with a strong understanding of airport management.
- Ability to make independent decisions while balancing regulatory compliance and operational needs.
- Strong communication and relationship-building skills with government agencies, businesses, and internal teams.
- Strategic thinker with a hands-on approach to problem-solving and team development.





Preferred Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in airport/aviation administration, business administration, or a related field.
- Minimum of seven years of progressive airport operations experience at an air carrier airport, including five years in a leadership role.
- Extensive knowledge of airport safety, security, and environmental regulations.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office and ability to generate technical reports.

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

Salary and Benefits

The starting salary range for this position is \$125,528 - \$145,516 with first step increase at 6 months and successful completion of probationary period. Also included is an excellent benefits package. Relocation assistance will be offered.

How To Apply

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

Deadline for applications: April 6, 2025

The contact for this search is:

Linda Frankl, A.A.E.

linda@adkexecutivesearch.com

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 Eastern Iowa Airport is an equal-opportunity employer. We support diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for employees.

