



The Lincoln Airport Authority invites applications for
Executive Director

Lincoln Airport (LNK)
Lincoln, Nebraska

EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES PROVIDED BY ADK CONSULTING & EXECUTIVE SEARCH



Lincoln Airport (LNK) – Where Innovation Meets Opportunity

Located in the heart of Nebraska, Lincoln Airport (LNK) is a dynamic, growing aviation hub with a strong commitment to operational excellence and community engagement. The Airport is seeking a dedicated Executive Director to lead and oversee the daily functions of LNK, ensuring efficiency, safety, and seamless service for travelers, tenants, and stakeholders.

The Airport

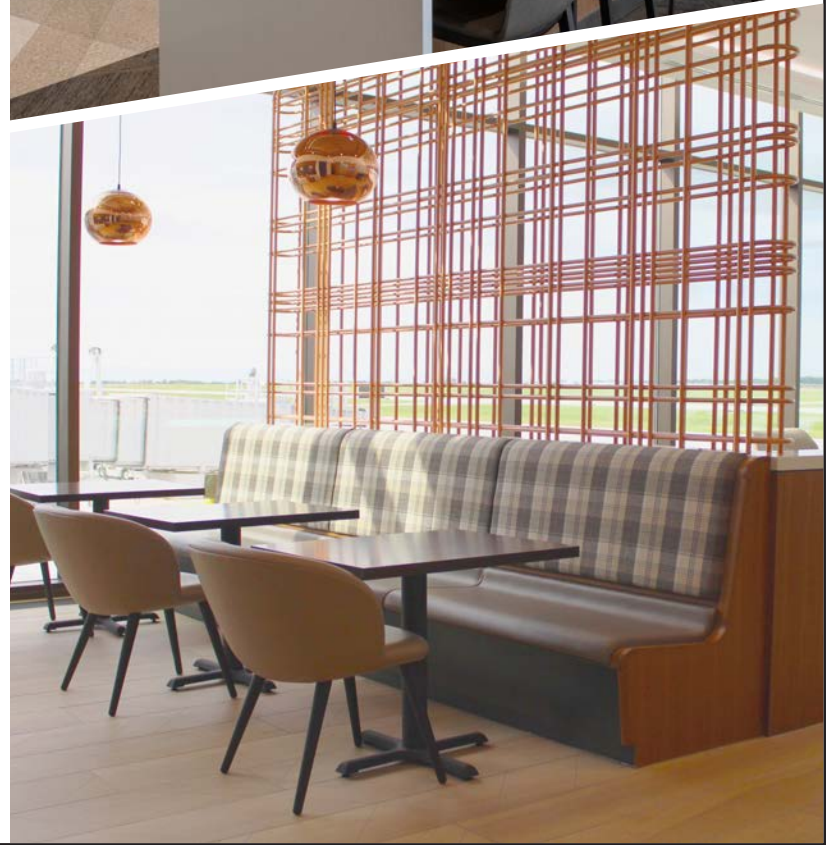
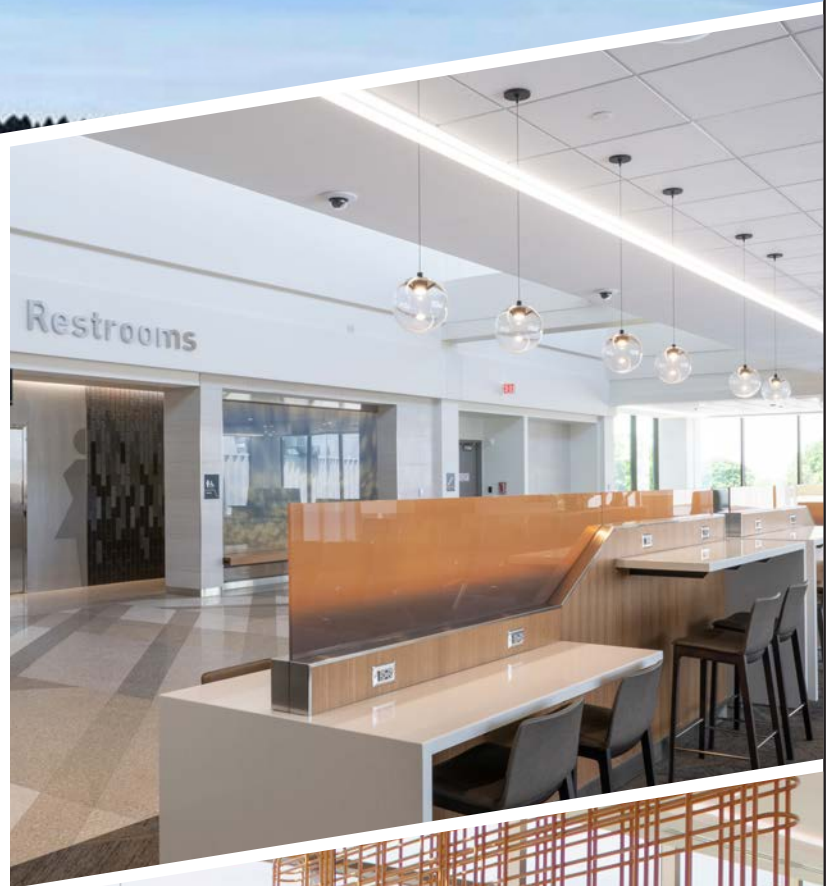
Lincoln Airport (LNK) is a shared-use public/military airport located just 5 minutes from downtown Lincoln. As Nebraska's second largest and capital city, Lincoln is a thriving community known for its innovation, business-friendly environment, exceptional quality of life and is the proud home of the Nebraska Cornhuskers.

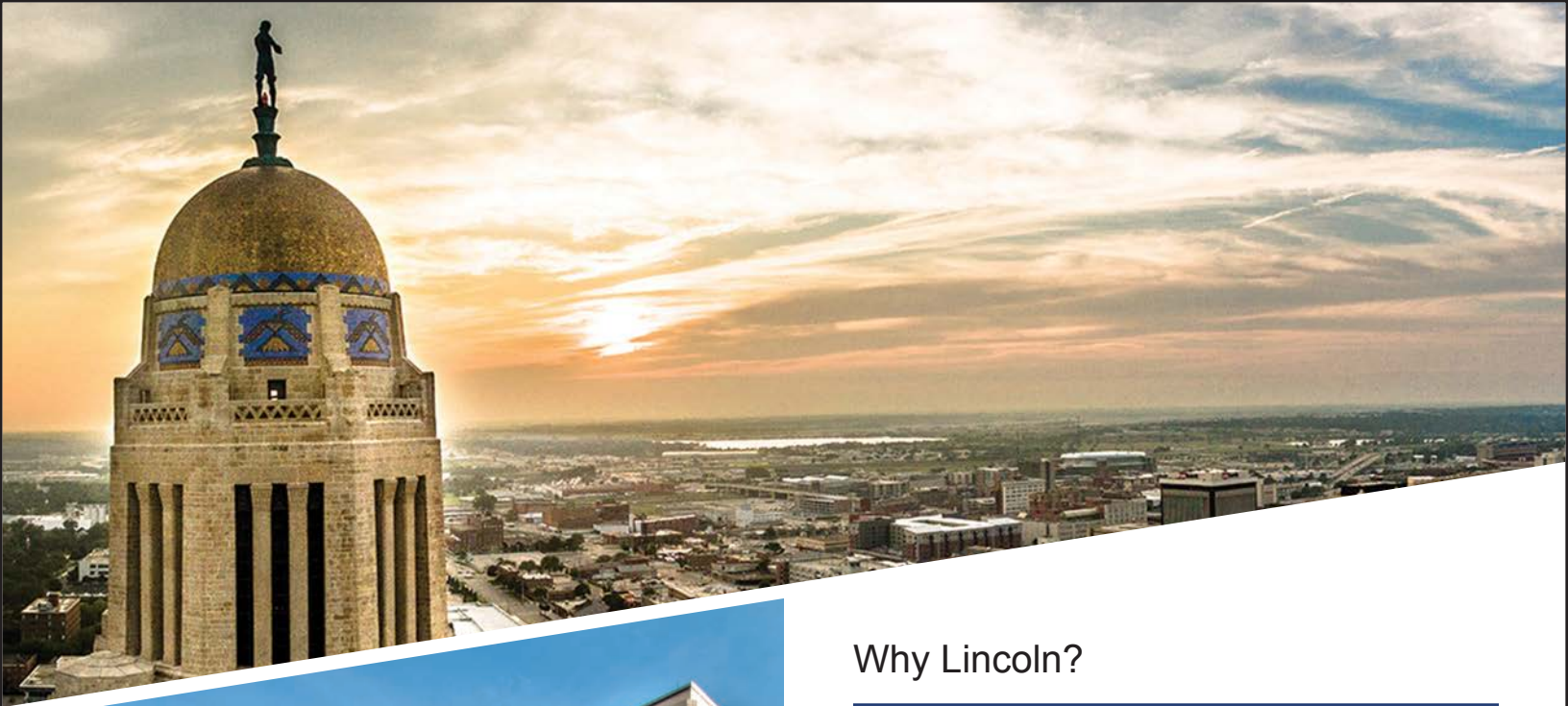
- **Air Service:** LNK is served by United Airlines, offering daily flights to Chicago and Denver. New service to Orlando begins this winter via Breeze Airlines. LNK also serves as a maintenance base for Skywest Airlines.
- **Terminal Modernization:** In 2024, LNK completed a \$56 million renovation that expanded the terminal by 38,000 square feet, added two new gates (six total), enhanced passenger amenities, and introduced new post-security food and beverage options.
- **Runway Rehabilitation:** The Lincoln Airport's primary runway (18/36) is one of the longest civilian runways in the country at 12,901 feet. The airport is getting ready to undertake a large co-funded (DOD and FAA) project to completely reconstruct the runway starting in November 2025. The project is expected to last through the fall of 2027.
- **General Aviation:** The Airport is home to multiple, thriving general aviation enterprises, including Hillaero, Silverhawk Aviation, Atlantic Aviation and Duncan Aviation, the world's largest privately owned business jet service provider.
- **Military Partnerships:** Home to the Nebraska Air National Guard's 155th Air Refueling Wing and the Nebraska Army National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters, LNK also serves as the primary backup for Offutt Air Force Base.



The Airport (*continued*)

- **Strategic Business Hub:** The airport operates the 1,000+ acre LNK Enterprise Park, an industrial park housing manufacturing, warehousing, and logistics businesses with direct access to dual rail services, several major highways, and Interstate 80.
- **Economic Impact:** LNK plays a vital role in supporting regional and national transportation networks while fostering economic development. A 2019 study by NEDOT revealed that LNK was responsible for \$1.3B in annual economic impact to the community of Lincoln. This was confirmed by results of a University of Nebraska study in 2025.
- **Lincoln Airport Authority:** Governed by a 5-member Board of Directors, the Lincoln Airport is under the care, custody and control of the Lincoln Airport Authority. Members of the Airport Authority Board are elected by the residents of Lincoln to serve 6-year terms.
- **LNK Team:** The Lincoln Airport has seen sizable growth in the last few years. The team is comprised of just over 100 employees, and they oversee an operating budget (FY25) of just under \$17 million and a capital budget of approximately \$14 million.





Why Lincoln?

A Thriving, Business-Friendly Community

Lincoln, Nebraska, is consistently ranked among the best cities in the U.S. for job seekers and quality of life. The city boasts low business costs, a strong economy, and a vibrant cultural scene.

- Top City for Job Seekers: US News and World Report ranks Lincoln among the top 25 best places to find a job (2024).
- Great for Families: Forbes ranks Lincoln among the top 20 best cities to raise a family (2024).
- Affordable Living: Cost of living is 8% lower than the U.S. average, allowing for a high quality of life.
- One of the Safest Cities in the U.S.: Crime rates are lower than the national average.
- Health & Wellness: Lincoln has been recognized as one of the top 25 happiest and healthiest cities in the U.S.
- Healthcare Excellence: Home to Bryan Health and CHI Saint Elizabeth, two of the top healthcare providers in the region.
- Strategic Location: Located on Interstate 80, Lincoln provides easy access to major Midwestern markets within a day's drive and is less than three hours from anywhere in the U.S. via direct air travel.
- Lincoln MSA: 344,387, with a less than 2% unemployment rate.
- Highly Ranked Public Schools: Lincoln Public Schools is one of the top districts in the Midwest, serving over 40,000 students.
- Lincoln is one of only two communities named by "Welcome America," in 2025, as a four-star welcoming community.

Why Lincoln? *(continued)*

Cultural & Recreational Opportunities

Lincoln is home to a thriving arts and entertainment scene, with venues such as:

- **Pinnacle Bank Arena** (16,000-seat entertainment and sports venue).
- **Memorial Stadium:** Join 90,000+ Husker fans for an unforgettable experience at iconic Memorial Stadium watching the Nebraska Cornhuskers play football.
- **Sheldon Museum of Art & Lied Center of Performing Arts:** Home to renowned American art collections and performing arts.
- **University of Nebraska-Lincoln:** A Big Ten university known for research, innovation, and strong sports traditions.
- **Innovation Campus:** Connects research with businesses to drive new technologies and startups.
- **Sports Hub:** Lincoln is home to the Nebraska Cornhuskers, the most recognized brand in college athletics that includes the #1 ranked women's volleyball team in D1 college sports. It also hosts high school championships, minor league baseball (Lincoln Saltdogs), and USHL hockey (Lincoln Stars).
- **128 Miles of Trails:** One of the best urban trail systems in the country for biking, walking, and running.
- **State Parks & Outdoor Activities:** Boating, fishing, and hiking opportunities abound at local parks like Pioneers Park and Branched Oak Lake. Hit the links at one of the 25 public and private golf courses in and around Lincoln.
- **Family-Friendly Attractions:** Lincoln offers plenty of fun for kids of all ages, including the Lincoln Children's Zoo with up-close animal encounters and interactive exhibits, the Lincoln Children's Museum featuring three floors of hands-on exhibits and imaginative play, and the region's premier museum of natural history, Morrill Hall, a 4-level, 70,000-square-foot museum known especially for its iconic Elephant Hall.
- **Coffee, Wine, Beer and Cocktail Scene:** Lincoln offers expertly brewed coffees, exquisite wines, innovative craft beers and unique cocktail creations. From cozy coffee shops to local wineries, breweries and cocktail bars serving everything from refreshing pale ales and bold stouts to Paper Planes and modern day Old Fashioneds, there's something to delight every beverage enthusiast.





Ready to play a key role in shaping the future of LNK?

If you are an experienced aviation professional passionate about leadership, safety, and strategic growth, you are encouraged to apply for the Executive Director role at Lincoln Airport.

Position Overview

The Executive Director of the Lincoln Airport Authority serves as the chief executive responsible for the leadership and strategic direction of the Lincoln Airport. Reporting directly to the Airport Authority Board, this role ensures the safe, efficient, and financially sustainable operation of the airport while advancing its long-term vision. The Executive Director represents the Airport regionally and nationally, builds strong partnerships, and promotes Lincoln's role as a key contributor to economic growth and community development.

About the Role

The Executive Director provides overall management of the Airport, including operations, finance, development, and air service initiatives. The position oversees a talented leadership team and works closely with federal and state agencies, tenants, airlines, and community partners. The Director also serves as the Authority's spokesperson, maintaining strong relationships with the public, media, and stakeholders.

Key Responsibilities

- Oversee airport operations, maintenance, safety, and compliance with all federal and state regulations.
- Manage financial performance, ensuring fiscal stability and responsible resource allocation.
- Guide planning, business development, and capital improvement initiatives.
- Represent the Airport Authority before legislative bodies, community groups, and industry organizations.
- Foster tenant, airline, and stakeholder relations, ensuring a customer-focused environment.
- Lead public relations and community engagement, supporting regional economic development.
- Execute the goals and objectives of the recently adopted 2025 Strategic Airport Business Plan.





Leadership Qualities and Style

The Executive Director will be a visionary leader with strong interpersonal and communication skills, capable of inspiring staff, building consensus, and representing the Airport with confidence and professionalism. A collaborative management style, sound judgment, and the ability to balance immediate operational needs with long-term strategic priorities are essential.

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

Preferred Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree or higher in Airport Management, Business Administration, Public Administration, or related field.
- Eight years of progressive management experience at a commercial service airport, including five years in senior leadership.
- Demonstrated success in financial management, capital planning, and business development.
- Strong knowledge of airport regulations, compliance, and funding mechanisms.
- Proven ability to engage effectively with community, government, and industry stakeholders.





Salary and Benefits

The hiring range for this position is \$198,000 - \$265,000. The starting salary will be determined by the candidate's qualifications and experience.

How To Apply

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

Deadline for applications: October 19, 2025

The 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.

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