



The Wilkes-Barre Scranton International Airport invites applications
Executive Director

Wilkes-Barre Scranton International Airport (AVP)
Avoca, PA

EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES PROVIDED BY ADK CONSULTING & EXECUTIVE SEARCH



The Airport

On June 1, 1947, the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Airport was encompassed by a mass of 40,000 local citizens awaiting the opening ceremony and witnessing a Colonial Airlines plane land and taxi to the stage as the first of many airliners to arrive in Avoca, Pennsylvania. Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport began with a strong sense of community pride that still holds true today, especially after the airport earned its international designation in 1975.

Our goal is to lift that pride and continue to enhance the community of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Thus, our mission statement is: ***“To be the premier airport that connects Northeast Pennsylvania to the world by providing safe, secure, and reliable transportation; excellence in service; a positive customer experience; and economic growth that our region deserves.”***

With this mission statement in mind, we operate as a team to support growth and economic prosperity for both the region and the airport. Today, the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport (AVP) offers convenient access to major airline hubs without the hassle of flying from or driving to a larger airport. AVP is the region’s primary commercial airport and is served by multiple airline partners offering nonstop service to major hub destinations such as Charlotte and Chicago, with additional service depending on seasonal schedules. The airport also offers covered parking and a comfortable travel environment.

The airport’s comfortable environment and friendly staff make traveling a pleasurable experience. The airport is also home to charter operations and a flight school through its FBO, Ascension.

Additionally, a partnership with Marywood University’s Aviation Program allows students to receive state-of-the-art flight training, from a towered airport, enhancing their prospects in aviation. Another partnership is with Johnson College, which allows students to obtain the knowledge and skills outlined in the Federal Aviation Administration’s Mechanic Airman Certification Standards by taking classes and completing laboratory work within the aviation industry inside a hangar at the airport to become airplane mechanics. Students gain an understanding of aircraft structures, systems, engines, finishes, materials, components, procedures, and operation. These partnerships align with AVP’s economic impact, contributing to regional employment opportunities and growth.

The Airport *(continued)*

Education and employment are vital drivers that help keep our community strong and growing. Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport's direct spending and passenger spending contribute more than \$297 million to the regional economy annually and support more than 2,281 jobs, according to recent airport economic impact results.

The strong future of Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport is a promise we must uphold for our surrounding communities and is supported by the day-to-day management and direction of the Executive Director, who reports directly to the AVP – Bi-County Partnership Board.

Some of AVP's notable improvements include our terminal building which was completed in May 2006 with approximately \$80 million in facility improvements, including a new parking garage. The terminal currently has eight gates and multiple jet bridges, a 15,967-square-foot boarding lounge, and a shopping and dining area. The air traffic control tower (ATCT) and TRACON facility were opened on August 29, 2012. The project was funded with \$13.3 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Additional improvements over the past 15 years include the construction of the South GA Apron (2013), 20,000-gallon Fuel Farm Expansion (2014), PA State Police Hangar (2017), Taxiway B Extension (Runway 22 Approach End) (2017), Hangar 6 (FBO Owned) (2021), Car Rental Joint Quick Turn Around Facility (2023), Hangar 5 (12,000 SF Hangar with Air & Ground Emergency Medical Response Facility) (2024), Taxiway B Extension (Runway 4 Approach End) completing the full-length parallel taxiway (2025), Terminal HVAC Improvements (2025), and slated to begin construction in 2026, a 10,000-square-foot terminal expansion project.

These are just a few of the many ways that the board and management team have accomplished in their efforts to continue growing the airport. The cooperation and teamwork of operations, safety, development, and marketing teams keep the airport moving toward safe, efficient operations and continued economic prosperity.





The Community

Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport is located in Northeast Pennsylvania (NEPA). NEPA is often referred to as “The Northeast’s Interstate Hub” - where Interstates 80, 81, 84, and 476 converge within the region, providing excellent highway access north to New York and Maine, south to Virginia, and west to Ohio.

The airport is located directly between the cities of Wilkes-Barre, Scranton and Avoca, allowing quick access to the many culturally vibrant and historic communities that call NEPA home.

Founded in the late 18th century, the Greater Wilkes-Barre Area rapidly grew during the 19th and early 20th centuries with the boom of anthracite coal. The region’s mining heritage earned Wilkes-Barre the nickname “The Diamond City.” Wilkes University, Kings College & Penn State University are some of the educational institutions.

Stately mansions along River Street bear witness to the history of the area, but further evidence of the region’s growth extends across the Susquehanna River and beyond the city’s borders. The Greater Wilkes-Barre Area boasts single-family homes, apartments, townhouses, and duplexes for every taste and lifestyle. You will find everything from grand historic houses to luxury apartments to peaceful family homes.

Luzerne County offers a variety of activities for residents and visitors alike. If outdoor adventures, entertainment, festivals or historical sites are what you enjoy, visitluzernecounty.com has all the information and calendar of events for you to follow.

The Community *(continued)*

Wherever you land, you will have easy access to the resources of downtown, as well as dining, shopping, and entertainment throughout the surrounding communities.

The Greater Scranton Area, also known as “The Electric City,” may not actually house The Office’s “Dunder Mifflin,” but it is home to several outstanding educational institutions, including the University of Scranton, Marywood University, Lackawanna College, Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine and Johnson College. The area is also home to celebrated sports teams such as the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders, the Triple-A affiliate of the New York Yankees, and Electric City Shock SC, a team playing in the National Premier Soccer League. To learn more about things to do in Lackawanna county, go the Lackawanna County Visitors Bureau at visitnepa.org.

Cultural destinations include Steamtown National Historic Site, the Electric City Trolley Museum, the Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum, the Everhart Museum, and the Houdini Museum. Various festivals and events are held throughout the region, and concerts with top national artists are hosted nearby at the Pavilion at Montage Mountain. In the winter, visitors and residents enjoy skiing and snowboarding on diverse terrain suitable for all ages and abilities.

Two of the local communities between Wilkes-Barre and Scranton are Pittston and Old Forge. Pittston celebrates a proud history, distinctive architecture, and year-round family-friendly community events and festivals. The City of Pittston is well known for its annual Tomato Festival and St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

Like many parts of Northeastern Pennsylvania, the region reflects a multicultural heritage with strong community traditions. Similar to Pittston, the borough of Old Forge celebrates its cultural roots. Old Forge is particularly proud of its pizza and is known locally as “The Pizza Capital of the World.” Here you will find rectangular pizzas sold by the “cut,” not the “slice.” Popular restaurants include Revello’s Pizza, Arcaro & Genell Restaurant & Banquet Facility, and Café Rinaldi.

From the historic urban centers of Scranton and Wilkes-Barre to the scenic Pocono Mountains and nearby lakes, Northeastern Pennsylvania offers a diverse range of living environments. The region’s friendly neighborhoods, manageable commutes, and quality schools provide flexibility across a wide range of housing options.





The Community *(continued)*

Urban dwellers, suburban residents, and those seeking more rural surroundings can all find a place to call home in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The cost of living in Northeastern Pennsylvania remains below the national average, making the region an attractive place to live and work. Affordable housing, family-friendly neighborhoods, strong healthcare and education institutions, and numerous outdoor recreation opportunities contribute to a high quality of life.

With a cost of living well below that of many larger metropolitan areas, residents find their income goes further while still enjoying amenities such as award-winning restaurants, local breweries, outdoor recreation areas, and diverse entertainment options.

An abundance of accessible public resources - including libraries, transportation options, and local government services - makes everyday living convenient for residents. For those relocating to the area, Northeastern Pennsylvania offers an inviting community supported by efficient local agencies and strong civic institutions.

The combination of affordability, convenience, and cultural richness found in Wilkes-Barre, Scranton, and the surrounding communities gives residents and visitors alike many reasons to fall in love with Northeastern Pennsylvania.

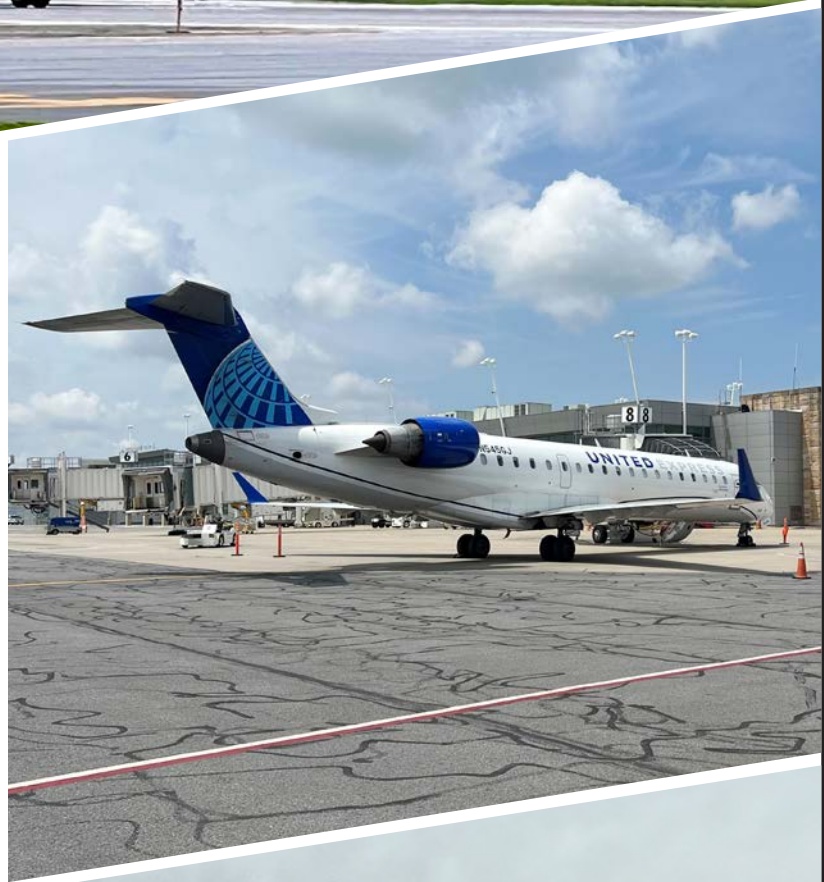


Position Overview

The Executive Director serves as the chief executive officer of Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport, providing strategic leadership, operational oversight, and long-term vision for a key commercial service airport serving Northeastern Pennsylvania. Reporting to the Airport Board, this role is responsible for the overall management of airport operations, financial performance, capital development, and stakeholder engagement. The Executive Director ensures the airport operates safely, efficiently, and in compliance with regulatory requirements while advancing growth, enhancing air service, and strengthening the airport's role as a critical economic driver for the region.

About the Role

The Executive Director leads all aspects of airport administration, balancing day-to-day operational oversight with long-range strategic planning and development. This role works closely with the Airport Board, staff, tenants, airlines, and government agencies to guide policy implementation, financial stewardship, and infrastructure investment. The Executive Director oversees budgeting, capital programs, and air service development initiatives while fostering strong relationships with stakeholders and the surrounding community. Through effective leadership and collaboration, the role ensures alignment between operational priorities, regulatory compliance, and the airport's strategic objectives for growth and service excellence.





Key Responsibilities

- Lead the overall management and operation of the airport, including administration, maintenance, and development
- Advise and partner with the Airport Board on strategic direction, policies, and organizational priorities
- Direct financial planning, budgeting, and fiscal oversight to ensure long-term sustainability
- Oversee lease negotiations, contracts, and agreements with airlines, tenants, and business partners
- Guide long-term strategic planning, capital development, and infrastructure initiatives
- Ensure compliance with all federal, state, and local aviation regulations and requirements
- Lead air service development, marketing, and business attraction and retention efforts
- Represent the airport with government agencies, stakeholders, and the community
- Foster a collaborative, high-performing organizational culture and develop airport staff

Leadership Qualities and Style

The ideal candidate is a visible, collaborative leader who brings strong executive presence and a commitment to organizational excellence. This individual demonstrates sound judgment, strategic thinking, and the ability to navigate complex operational and stakeholder environments. An effective communicator, the Executive Director builds trust with board members, employees, tenants, and community partners while clearly articulating the airport's vision and priorities. The successful candidate values teamwork, promotes accountability, and fosters a positive workplace culture that supports innovation, responsiveness, and continuous improvement.

Preferred Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in aviation management, business administration, public administration, or a related field
- Minimum of 10 years of progressively responsible leadership experience in a commercial service airport
- Demonstrated expertise in airport operations, finance, planning, and regulatory compliance
- Proven success in stakeholder engagement, public relations, and government coordination
- Experience in air service development, business development, and strategic planning
- Accredited Airport Executive (A.A.E.) or Certified Member (C.M.) designation preferred

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

Salary and Benefits

The position offers a competitive executive compensation package with a salary range of \$135,000 to \$150,000, commensurate on qualifications and experience.

How To Apply

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

Deadline for applications: May 10, 2026

The contacts for this search are:

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The Wilkes-Barre Scranton International Airport is an equal-opportunity employer. We support diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for employees.

