



Mercer County Government invites applications for
Airport Director

Trenton–Mercer Airport (TTN)
Ewing Township, Mercer County, New Jersey

EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES PROVIDED BY ADK CONSULTING & EXECUTIVE SEARCH



Mercer County Government

Mercer County, New Jersey operates under a County Executive form of government that provides strategic leadership, fiscal stewardship, and administrative oversight across a broad portfolio of public services. The County is responsible for critical infrastructure, public safety, economic development, human services, and transportation assets serving residents and businesses throughout Central New Jersey and the greater Delaware Valley.

The County Executive and Board of Commissioners establish policy direction, approve operating and capital budgets, and provide oversight of enterprise operations, including Trenton–Mercer Airport. This governance framework requires executive leaders who understand how to operate complex public enterprises within a transparent and politically accountable environment.

About Trenton-Mercer Airport (TTN)

Trenton–Mercer Airport plays a critical role in the regional aviation system serving Central New Jersey and the greater Delaware Valley. The airport supports a diversified aviation platform that includes commercial passenger service, corporate aviation, general aviation, air taxi operations, and a significant level of flight training activity. This mix of operations creates a dynamic operating environment where safety, efficiency, and coordination between multiple aviation stakeholders are essential.

As a federally obligated airport sponsor receiving AIP funding, TTN must maintain strict compliance with FAA Grant Assurances, FAR Part 139 requirements, TSA mandates, and state and local regulations.



The Community

A Central Location with Unmatched Accessibility

Mercer County sits midway between New York City and Philadelphia, placing two of the nation's largest economic, cultural, and transportation centers within easy reach. Major highways—including Interstate 95, I-295, and U.S. Route 1—connect residents efficiently to the broader Northeast Corridor, while passenger rail service from nearby stations provides direct access to both cities and destinations beyond.

A Region Shaped by History and Forward Momentum

Mercer County's character is shaped by its deep historical roots and its continued investment in the future. As the site of pivotal moments during the American Revolution, the region features historic landmarks, preserved districts, and museums that reflect its national significance. At the same time, these historic assets coexist with ongoing infrastructure improvements, redevelopment initiatives, and modern public facilities.

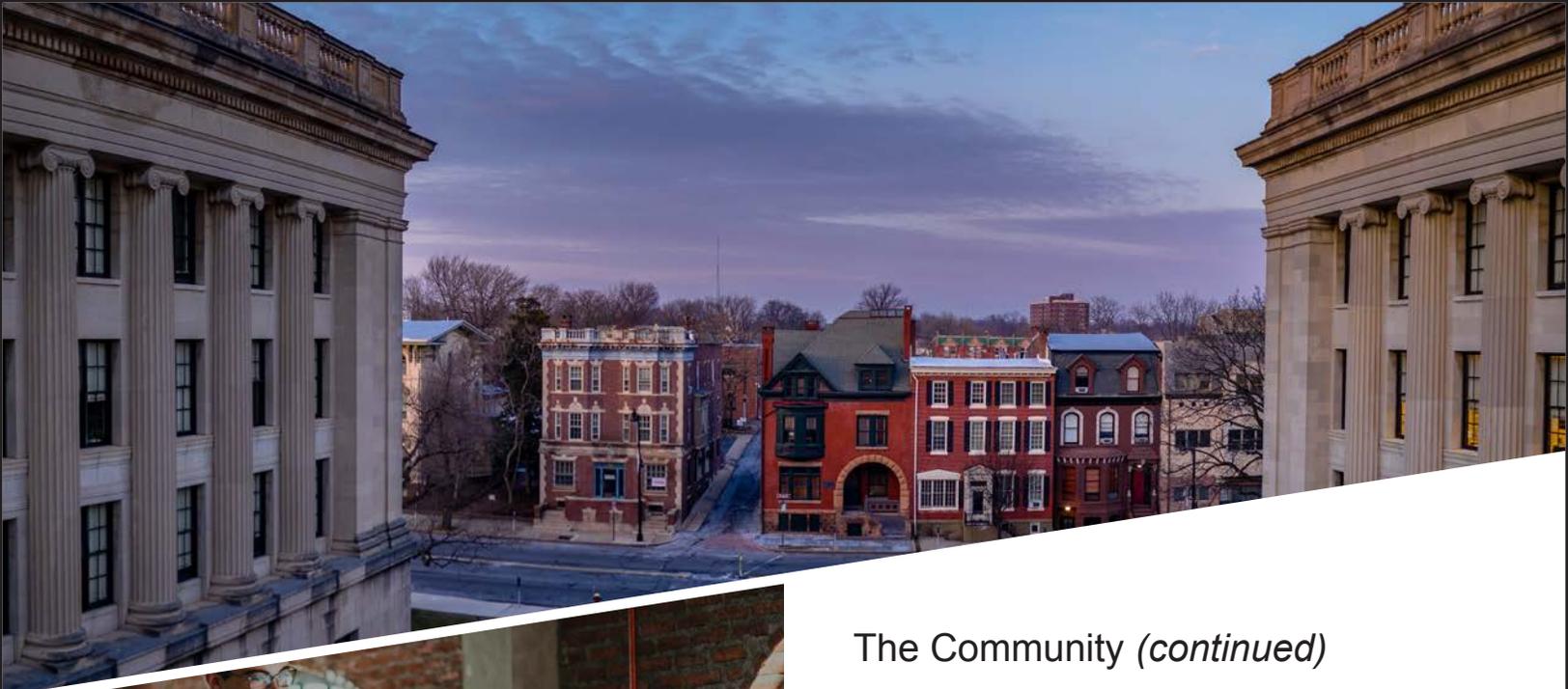
This blend of heritage and progress mirrors the broader environment in which Trenton–Mercer Airport operates—one that values stewardship, accountability, and thoughtful modernization. Residents experience a community that respects its past while actively planning for long-term sustainability and growth.

Diverse Communities with Distinct Character

Mercer County is composed of a collection of municipalities that offer a wide range of living environments. Residents may choose historic, walkable neighborhoods in the City of Trenton; established suburban communities such as Ewing and Lawrence with convenient access to employment centers; or smaller towns like Hopewell and Pennington that combine village-style downtowns with surrounding open space. This diversity allows individuals and families to select a setting that aligns with their lifestyle preferences—urban, suburban, or semi-rural—without sacrificing proximity to work or regional amenities.

Across the county, communities are frequently described as welcoming and engaged. Locally owned restaurants, farmers' markets, neighborhood events, and civic organizations contribute to a strong sense of community. Commute times remain reasonable, and development is balanced with preservation, reinforcing a quality of life that appeals to professionals seeking stability and connection.





The Community (*continued*)

A Hub of Education and Intellectual Capital

Education plays a significant role in Mercer County's identity. The region is home to several highly regarded institutions, including Princeton University, The College of New Jersey, Rider University, and Thomas Edison State University. Together, these institutions contribute to a highly educated workforce, ongoing research and innovation, and a steady flow of cultural and academic programming.

For an Airport Director and their family, the presence of these institutions enhances both professional and personal opportunities. Beyond formal education, the universities support lectures, performances, continuing education, and community engagement that enrich the broader regional environment. The concentration of academic talent also strengthens the local labor pool across government, technology, healthcare, and professional services.

Recreation, Culture, and Open Space

Despite its proximity to densely populated regions, Mercer County maintains an impressive network of parks, preserved lands, and recreational amenities. County parks, multi-use trails, golf courses, and waterfront areas along the Delaware River provide opportunities for outdoor activity throughout the year. Seasonal programming—including outdoor concerts, festivals, and community gatherings—adds to the region's livability and sense of connection.

The county also supports a vibrant arts and entertainment scene. Major events and performances are hosted at venues such as CURE Insurance Arena, while baseball fans enjoy summer games with the Trenton Thunder. Nearby Princeton expands these offerings with theater, dining, museums, and boutique shopping, contributing to a cultural landscape that is both accessible and diverse.

The Community *(continued)*

Quality of Life That Supports Career and Family

One of Mercer County's greatest strengths is balance. Residents benefit from shorter and more predictable commutes compared to major metropolitan areas, a wide range of housing options, and access to well-regarded schools and universities. The county's central location also places beaches, mountains, and major cities within convenient reach for weekend travel and recreation.

Trenton–Mercer Airport reflects this same balance of accessibility and efficiency. Known for its manageable scale and ease of travel, the airport provides a streamlined alternative to larger regional facilities. For employees and leadership alike, this translates into a work environment where operational focus, stakeholder engagement, and decision-making can occur without unnecessary friction, while still serving a large and diverse regional population.

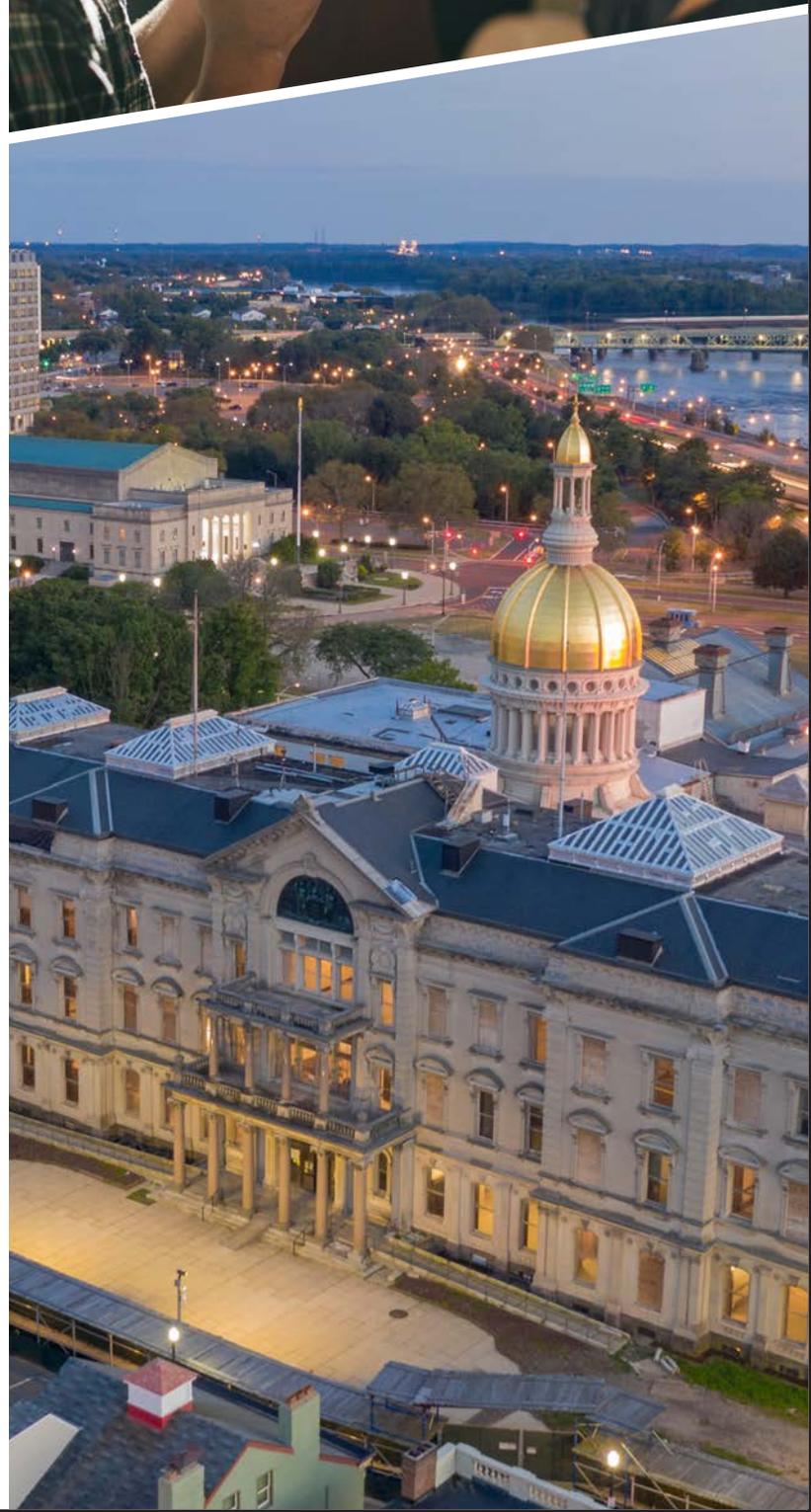
For employees at Trenton–Mercer Airport, this quality of life supports the ability to focus on complex professional responsibilities while maintaining strong personal and family connections. The region offers a setting conducive to long-term leadership—one where career demands are matched by livability, community engagement, and opportunity beyond the workplace.

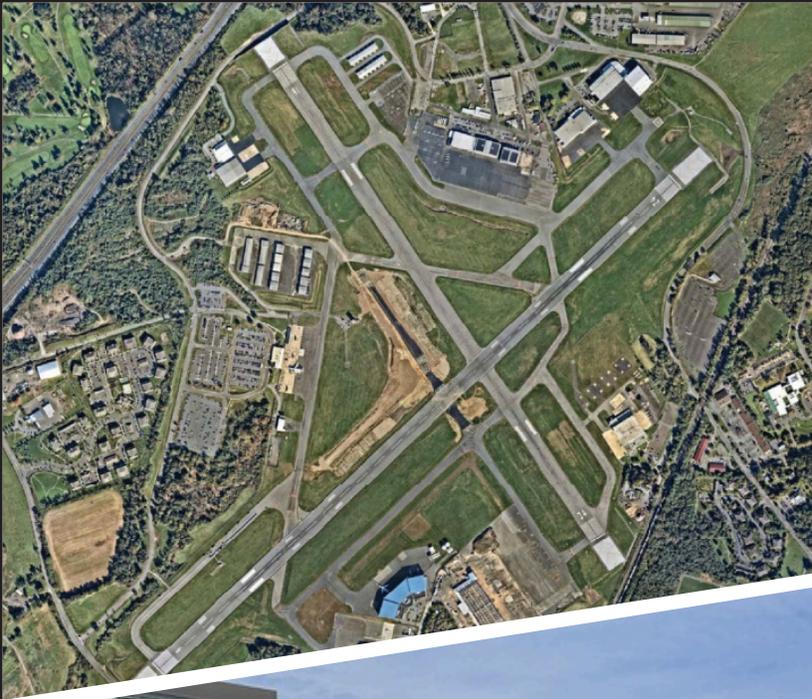
The Advantage of Working at Trenton–Mercer Airport

Choosing to work at Trenton–Mercer Airport means joining an organization that serves as a critical gateway for the region while rooted in the values that define Mercer County: accessibility, responsibility, and community connection. Airport staff are not only part of an essential transportation asset but also members of a region that offers professional opportunity, historic depth, and an exceptional quality of life.

For an Airport Director considering the next step in their career, Mercer County offers more than a position—it offers a place to lead, contribute, and build a lasting professional and personal presence.

This central positioning allows airport leadership to remain connected to national and international aviation markets while avoiding the daily congestion associated with larger metropolitan areas.





Position Overview

The Airport Director serves as the accountable executive for Trenton–Mercer Airport (TTN). Reporting to County Executive leadership, the Director operates with delegated authority to lead the airport as a complex public enterprise and serves as the Airport Sponsor’s authorized representative to the FAA and other regulatory agencies.

This recruitment occurs as TTN advances a multi-year capital redevelopment program and strengthens its operational and financial framework.

Trenton–Mercer Airport is entering a pivotal phase of operational and infrastructure development. The Airport Director provides strategic and operational leadership across all functional areas of the airport, including safety, compliance, finance, capital delivery, commercial performance, and stakeholder engagement. With a new 125,000-square-foot terminal designed, major airfield and landside projects underway, and passenger growth projected to approach 476,000 annual enplanements by 2035, this executive will guide TTN through a defining transformation. The Director balances regulatory discipline, airline competitiveness, capital affordability, and community trust while positioning the airport for long-term resilience.

Strategic Priorities

1. Deliver Capital Development Projects

Advance implementation of the airport master plan and oversee delivery of a multi-year capital improvement program including terminal and airfield infrastructure projects.

2. Strengthen the Airport Financial Model

Refine the airport’s financial structure to ensure long-term fiscal sustainability while maintaining competitive airline and tenant cost structures.

3. Enhance Commercial Air Service

Support air service development efforts and strengthen relationships with current and prospective airline partners.

4. Balance Aviation Growth and Community Interests

Manage community concerns related to aircraft noise while maintaining safe and efficient airport operations.

5. Strengthen Organizational Capability

Build a high-performing airport team and modernize internal management practices to support the airport’s evolving operational requirements.

The Airport Director will play a central role in guiding these initiatives and ensuring that TTN continues to operate as a safe, efficient, and economically important regional transportation asset.



Key Responsibilities

- Ensure operational safety and full regulatory compliance
- Lead operating and capital budgeting and revenue strategy
- Oversee delivery of major capital projects
- Negotiate airline, tenant, and commercial agreements
- Direct airfield, terminal, and landside operations
- Represent the airport in community and governmental forums

Leadership Profile

The successful candidate will demonstrate enterprise-level leadership, operational command, financial acumen, and political awareness. The Director must communicate transparently, build high-performing teams, and sustain regulatory and stakeholder confidence while guiding TTN through strategic modernization.

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

Preferred Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in aviation, business, public administration, engineering, or related field
- Senior leadership experience at a commercial service airport
- Demonstrated expertise in FAA Part 139 and AIP compliance
- Experience managing multi-year capital development programs
- Accredited Airport Executive (A.A.E.) designation preferred





Salary and Benefits

The salary range for this position is competitive and commensurate with experience and qualifications. A comprehensive public-sector benefits package is included. Relocation assistance will be provided.

How To Apply

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

Deadline for applications: April 12, 2026

The contact for this search is:

Kenneth Gwyn, A.A.E.

kenneth@adkexecutivesearch.com

Mercer County Government is an equal-opportunity employer. We support diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for employees.

