



The Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority invites applications for
Senior Vice President & Chief Development Officer

Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU)
Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina

EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES PROVIDED BY ADK CONSULTING & EXECUTIVE SEARCH



The Opportunity

This is a rare opportunity to lead one of the most significant airport development programs in the United States, at the center of one of the nation's most dynamic and fastest-growing regions. Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU) is entering a pivotal phase in its history, with a multi-billion-dollar capital program that will shape the airport's future capacity, competitiveness and global position.

For the right leader, this role offers the chance to deliver a complex generational infrastructure program, operate as a true executive partner, and deliver lasting impact, supporting the continued evolution of a critical regional asset.



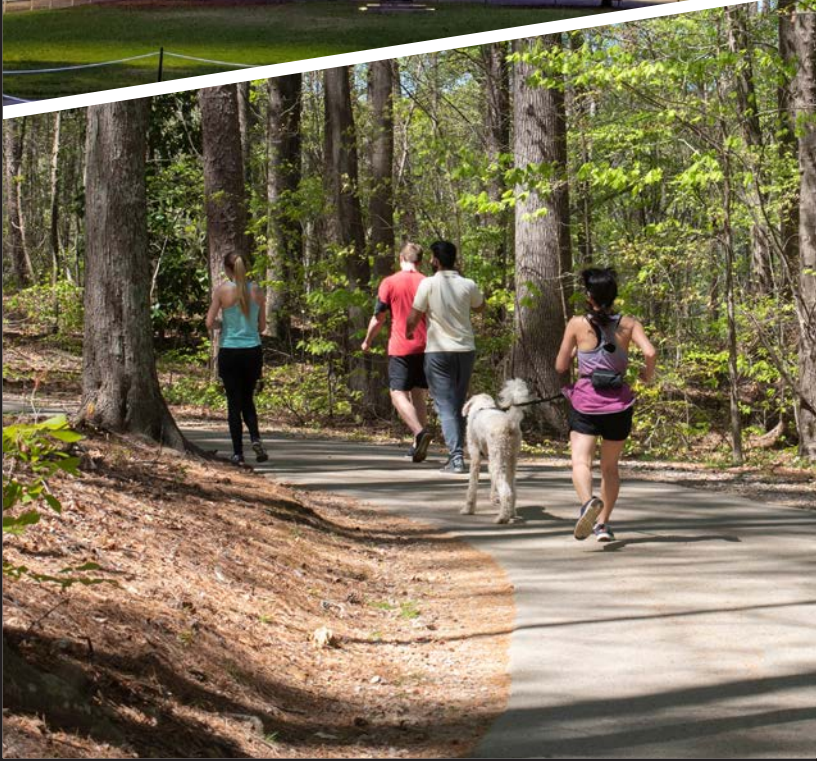
The Region

Anchored by Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill, North Carolina's Research Triangle region is home to more than two million residents and experiencing sustained population and economic growth.

World-class institutions—including Duke University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and North Carolina State University—fuel innovation, talent development and global influence. Research Triangle Park stands as one of the largest research and technology hubs in the country, attracting leading companies across the life sciences, technology, advanced manufacturing and healthcare industries.

The region's expanding economy, highly educated workforce and strong quality of life are driving long-term demand for air service and infrastructure investment.

RDU plays a central role in this economic engine, generating a \$24.1 billion economic impact and \$1.3 billion in state and local taxes each year, reinforcing its importance as critical infrastructure for the region's continued growth and competitiveness.



The Airport

Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU) serves as the primary gateway to this thriving region, connecting the Triangle to 87 nonstop destinations, including 12 international markets, supported by a diverse mix of domestic and global carriers.

With more than 15 million annual passengers and growing, the airport is expanding its reach, strengthening airline partnerships and increasing global connectivity. RDU is in a phase of sustained, strategic growth focused on long-term capacity, resilience and service excellence.

A Transformational Capital Program

RDU is advancing a bold long-term vision through its capital development program, representing more than \$2.5 billion in investment over the next decade.

Key initiatives include:

- Development of a new primary runway to support long-haul and international growth.
- Expansion of Terminal 2 to increase capacity and improve passenger flow.
- Modernization of landside and roadway infrastructure.
- Continued enhancement of airport systems to support operational efficiency and future demand.

These investments are transformational, positioning RDU for the next generation of growth.

From the CEO

“I’m looking for a proven leader who has managed large-scale capital programs, brings a private-sector sense of urgency and innovation, and operates as a true executive partner—someone who builds, leads and delivers while staying aligned and accountable.”

**- Michael J. Landguth, A.A.E.
President & CEO**





Why This Role Matters

The next decade will define RDU's trajectory. The Senior Vice President & Chief Development Officer will lead the execution of one of the most ambitious airport development programs in the country.

This role is central to:

- Delivering a \$2.5B+ capital program with discipline, speed and credibility.
- Aligning infrastructure investment with passenger growth, airline demand and regional expansion.
- Ensuring financial resiliency and long-term operational performance.
- Positioning RDU as a leading mid-sized global gateway.

This is a high-impact leadership role with real stakes and lasting impact.



The Role

Reporting to the President & CEO, the SVP & Chief Development Officer provides strategic leadership for planning, engineering, design, construction and sustainability across the airport's development portfolio.

The position oversees:

- Capital Development and Delivery
- Planning and Master Planning
- Facilities and Asset Management
- Environmental and Sustainability Programs

The role ensures projects are delivered on time, on budget and in alignment with RDU's long-term strategic vision.

Key responsibilities include:

- Leading implementation of the Airport Master Plan and long-term capital development strategy.
- Directing a multi-billion-dollar capital improvement program from planning through construction and operations.
- Establishing priorities across interdependent projects, balancing capacity, risk, sustainability and financial performance.
- Overseeing planning, engineering, design, permitting, construction and program controls.
- Ensuring projects meet scope, schedule, budget and performance expectations.
- Managing consultants, contractors and program management partners with clear accountability.
- Leading environmental strategy, permitting and regulatory compliance efforts.
- Serving as primary liaison with the FAA and key government agencies.
- Overseeing capital budgeting, financial planning and grant funding strategies.
- Advising the CEO and Board with clear, actionable insights on program status, risks and strategy.
- Building and leading a high-performing, multidisciplinary organization.

What Success Looks Like

Success in this role means:

- Major projects delivered efficiently and with high quality.
- Strong alignment between development, operations, and finance.
- Expanded capacity that keeps pace with passenger and airline growth.
- A culture of execution, accountability and innovation.





What We Are Looking For

We are seeking an executive who operates as a builder, enterprise leader and trusted partner.

- Proven program leadership: Experience leading large-scale capital programs (\$1B+), managing complexity across multiple interdependent projects.
- Private-sector mindset: Brings urgency, accountability and a bias toward execution and results.
- Enterprise perspective: Connects development to strategy, operations, finance and long-term growth.
- Leadership style: Proactive, collaborative and aligned—drives outcomes while building trust across stakeholders.
- Executive presence: Communicates clearly, makes decisions in complex environments and serves as a credible advisor to the CEO and Board.

This is a role for a leader who is energized by building at scale and motivated to deliver lasting impact.

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

Salary and Benefits

The hiring range for this position is estimated at over \$325,000, with final compensation based on experience and credentials.

The Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority offers a comprehensive benefits package, including:

- Participation in the North Carolina Local Government Employees' Retirement System (LGERS).
- Performance-based incentive program.
- Comprehensive health and wellness benefits.
- Executive-level leave and retirement planning support.
- Relocation benefit.

This compensation package reflects the scale, complexity and strategic importance of the role.



How To Apply

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

Deadline for applications: May 24, 2026

The contacts for this search are:

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Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority is an equal opportunity employer committed to building a diverse and inclusive workforce.

