



Patrick Dame

March 2, 2009

Grand Forks Regional Airport Authority Appoints New Executive Director

Patrick Dame, who has been the Airport Director at Minot International Airport for the past two years, will be the new Executive Director at Grand Forks International Airport.

Dame was chosen to replace Steve Johnson, who announced last October his decision to step down as Executive Director.

Said Authority Chairman Rich Becker... "Our new director understands the issues of airport management in the state of North Dakota. We were impressed with his active involvement in the Minot community and know he will do the same in Grand Forks. Dame brings the level of enthusiasm, experience and excitement to this position that the committee wanted."

The Authority's Board, along with additional members of the community, served as the search committee in the selection of Dame. ADK Executive Search of Jacksonville, FL assisted the committee in selecting the final four candidates among 23 applicants. ADK specializes exclusively in airport management searches. "I give a lot of credit to the committee. They were very thorough in their deliberations," said Doug Kuelpman, President of ADK.

Dame has always wanted to be an airport director since his college days at St. Cloud State University where he majored in Aviation Management. His career stops before Minot included an operations assignment at the Denver International Airport, an airport planner with SEH Inc. in St. Paul, MN, and Airport Manager at Brookings Regional Airport in Brookings, SD. "I am thrilled with the opportunity at Grand Forks," said Dame. "The presence of the University of North Dakota's aerospace program in the community and the airport is huge. I look forward to working with them, the other tenants, and the Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation in furthering the community's interests."

Johnson has been at GFK for over 18 years, first as Director of Operations, and as Executive Director for the past 11 years. "I am profoundly grateful for this opportunity to have been of service to the board and to the local citizens," said Johnson. "Steve has represented Grand Forks in the upmost fashion," said Becker. "Getting us positioned to build a new terminal beginning this summer is testimony to the fine job he has done for us."

GFK expects to serve more than 200,000 passengers in 2009 with service from Northwest Airlines (soon to be called Delta) and Allegiant Air. The airport experiences over 275,000 operations annually boosted significantly by UND's John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences flight training program. The airport is also home to a regional distribution system flown by Federal Express and GFK Flight Support. GFK is operated by the Grand Forks Regional Airport Authority whose commissioners are appointed by the City of Grand Forks and Grand Forks County.

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