

Airport names director

By Nate Traylor, Staff Writer
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The Coos County Airport District board has selected a new director to head the North Bend airport.

Theresa Cook will begin at the Southwest Oregon Regional Airport in December, bringing with her 14 years of experience in airport management.

District Chairman Mike Lehman said her track record for developing airport property tipped the balance in her favor. The district considered two additional candidates.

Lehman said the board wanted someone who could draw more tenants and revenue from the airport's business park.

"She had very creative dealings developing airport property," he said.

Cook is currently the executive director of the Collier County Airport Authority in Naples, Fla., a position she has held since 2004. She oversees three airports there.

She earned a Master of Aeronautical Science and a bachelor's in business administration from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Cook started her aviation career as a safety operations manager for the U.S. Army Transportation Corp. at Fort Eustis, Va.

She also was an instructor at McDonnell Douglas Helicopter Training Systems in Mesa, Ariz., before becoming an aircraft dispatcher at Sky Harbor International Airport in Phoenix, where she was later promoted to assistant manager.

She was an airport development coordinator at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, in Austin, Texas, for two years before becoming an airport manager at Florida Keys Marathon Airport.

She then became manager at Las Cruces International Airport in New Mexico, where she stayed for a year.

Lehman said the district expects to finalize employment details early next week.