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# AIRMAIL '19



February 28, 2019

Issue 19-04

**FAC Education and Training Summit**  
**Omni Orlando Resort | ChampionsGate**  
**May 22-24, 2019**  
**Facilities | IT | Operations | Security | Legal | Education | Training**

## REGISTRATION IS OPEN

**2**019 commemorates the 50th Anniversary of FAC, and we are pleased to announce the first annual Education and Training Summit to be held at the Omni Hotel at Champions Gate, in beautiful Kissimmee, FL May 22-24, 2019.

The E & T Summit represents a departure from FAC's previous format of an annual Specialty Conference. The Summit focuses on training and professional development in the airport Facilities, Information Technology, Operations and Security arenas, and will feature several sessions on important legal and professional training opportunities. What's different this year?

**First-Time attendees** - If you have not attended a Specialty Conference before, consider attending the E & T Summit at a discounted rate.

**Opening Session** - Wednesday's opening will include the presentation of committee awards and key-note speaker Capt. Denny Flanagan who will inspire and entertain us with his "customer focused" approach.

**General Sessions** - Wednesday through Friday, topics will transcend multiple disciplines including:

- ◆ Vehicle/Pedestrian Deviations: Don't Become a Statistic! and NOTAMS: Communicating Hazards to Airport Users
- ◆ Airport Police Roundtable and TSA SPP Program Overview
- ◆ Protecting Airspace Around Your Airport from Drone Incursions, Legal & Practical Considerations and Utilizing Drones on the Airfield: A New World of Opportunity
- ◆ How to Develop a Successful Internship Program and Best Practices in Recruiting and Hiring Facilities Personnel
- ◆ Florida Airports Certified Professional (FACP) Program
- ◆ Internal Security Risks, Digital Signage and Multifactor Authentication

**Workshops - This is new!** Extended periods of training on important topics will be featured:

- ◆ No. 1 - Airfield Marking, Wednesday, May 22nd - hosted by the Facilities Committee
- ◆ No. 2 - SMS Implementation - Its coming are you ready? Thursday, May 23rd - hosted by the Operations Committee
- ◆ No. 3 - Mobile Device Management, Thursday, May 23rd - hosted by the IT Committee
- ◆ No. 4 - Changing Culture & Performance Outcomes using Clifton Strengths, Friday, May 24th - hosted by the Training Committee
- ◆ No. 5 - TSA/AAAE/ACI Policy Updates & Open Forum, Friday, May 24th - hosted by the Security Committee

**Trade Show:** This year's format will be more intimate and provide additional opportunities for vendors to interact with summit attendees. The Exhibit Hall will accommodate only fifteen (15) exhibitors; be sure to register early to secure the most desirable location for your booth. The exhibit hall will be open during all sessions, allowing multiple opportunities to visit with the exhibitors during the event. Wednesday's schedule includes a Welcome Reception with Exhibitors in the evening.

**Sponsors:** Sponsorship is a fantastic way for airports and corporate members to support the conference, your clients, and your customers. Regardless of the size of your company or the level of participation, you will receive one of the best values in the aviation industry. Your sponsorship will provide your company with increased brand awareness, visibility and recognition.

Click [here](#) to go to the Summit website. This website provides everything you need to know to register as a delegate, sponsor and exhibitor and reserve a hotel room. We look forward to seeing you at Champions Gate!

## AROUND THE STATE

### March 5<sup>th</sup> begins the 2019 Florida Legislative Session

Florida lawmakers will gather March 5th in the House chamber to hear Gov. Ron DeSantis give his first State of the State address, the traditional start of the 60-day legislative session. Led by Senate President Bill Galvano, R-Bradenton, and House Speaker Jose Oliva, R-Miami Lakes, lawmakers this year will deal with myriad issues, ranging from passing a state budget to deciding whether to allow patients to smoke medical marijuana. Gov. DeSantis has established several priorities, including:

**BUDGET:** DeSantis has proposed a \$91.3B budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1, as he seeks to increase money for education and water-quality projects and trim taxes. DeSantis' proposal is only a starting point for lawmakers, who will have their own priorities for state funding. *The Gov.'s budget recommends the Aviation Development Grant Program funded at \$266,315,851. This is the exact total requested by FDOT.*

*A note to Airports: FAC encourages airports to program your projects through JACIP and resist the urge to request*

*a line-item project budget and approval. We understand that your legislative delegations wish to support you in every way, but be sure you know the downsides to that approach:*

- ◆ *If the Governor vetoes your single-project request (which happened routinely under the last administration), FDOT is prohibited by law from funding the project during that fiscal year*
- ◆ *If the Governor approves your line item request, per ss. 339.125(4)(a), F.S., FDOT is required to take the funding from other projects within your FDOT District and may take it from projects AT YOUR AIRPORT, that are included in the Work Program. If your airport doesn't have other projects, FDOT may be required to take the funds from other airports' projects in your district.*

**TRANSPORTATION:** Galvano has made clear that one of his top priorities will be highway projects that he says would help rural areas.

**ENVIRONMENT:** After algae and red tide fouled waterways and coastal areas in Southeast and Southwest Florida last year, DeSantis is making a priority of addressing water-quality issues. DeSantis has proposed a \$625M package that addresses Everglades restoration and other water-related issues. Lawmakers also are pushing bills that would deal with problems such as cleaning up the Indian River Lagoon.

**HURRICANE MICHAEL:** Lawmakers face costly decisions as they look to help Northwest Florida recover from Hurricane Michael. Galvano said the state has already spent \$1.13B responding to the October hurricane, and the total could go as high as \$2.7B.

Other hot topics to watch this session: Health Care, Insurance, Medical Marijuana, School choice, School safety and appointments to the FL Supreme Court.

**2019 Southern Region Airports Conference**  
**Save the Date!**  
**April 22-25, 2019**  
 Marriott Buckhead Hotel & Convention Center  
 Atlanta, Georgia  
 Updated information at:  
[www.faa.gov/airports/southern](http://www.faa.gov/airports/southern)



**Tourism numbers set record in 2018**

Toxic waterways and a devastating hurricane did not keep visitors away from the Sunshine State

last year, according to Florida’s tourism-marketing arm.

Visit Florida announced last week that the state had 126.1 million visitors in 2018, a 6 percent increase from the record set in 2017.

“It’s clear that by focusing on value and data-driven campaigns, Visit Florida and the tourism industry have achieved unprecedented success,” Visit Florida President and CEO Dana Young said in a statement. The increase was bolstered by 7.1 percent growth in US travelers, who accounted for 88.6 percent of the state’s visitors, according to the Visit Florida numbers.

Overseas visitors declined by 1 percent, to 10.818 million,

after falling by 2 percent a year earlier. Overseas travel has dropped for four consecutive years.

Meanwhile, tourism from Canada went up 1.9 percent last year, to 3.447 million, after growing by 3 percent in 2017. Visit Florida, under its former president, Ken Lawson, put an emphasis on Canadian marketing in 2017. The number of Canadian visitors had fallen for four consecutive years before the agency increased its focus.

DeSantis has recommended lawmakers maintain Visit Florida’s funding at \$76 million for next fiscal year, the same amount as during the year that will end June 30. Young told members of the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee last week that the public-private agency had to overcome the equivalent of \$35M in negative media due to news coverage of Hurricane Michael in the Panhandle in October. The state received an additional \$22M in negative media from reports on toxic red tide and algae outbreaks last year in Southeast and Southwest Florida, Young said.

State estimates indicate Florida had 112.4 million visitors in 2016; 106.6 million in 2015; 98.5 million in 2014; 94.1 million in 2013; 91.5 million in 2012; and 87.3 million in 2011.

DATES TO REMEMBER		( New ← )
	Location	Date
<b>FAC Commemorative Poster Competition</b>	Click <a href="#">here</a> for more information	<b>January 14, 2019 - March 22, 2019</b>
<b>2019 Washington, DC Fly-In</b>	Washington, DC Click <a href="#">here</a> to register Click <a href="#">here</a> to make your hotel reservations	<b>March 6-8, 2019</b>
<b>FAC Leadership Development Training Courses</b> Leadership Development (ALD) & Situational Leadership (ASL) for Airport & Transp. Professionals	<b>Marriott Orlando Lake Mary / Sanford Int’l Airport</b> 1501 International Parkway, Lake Mary, FL 32746 Click <a href="#">here</a> to for more information	<b>March 11-15, 2019</b>
<b>Education and Training Summit</b>	<b>Omni Orlando Resort at ChampionsGate</b> 1500 Masters Blvd., Championsgate, FL 33896 Click <a href="#">here</a> to access the registration brochure	<b>May 22-24, 2019</b> ←
<b>WEBINAR</b> New FAA Advisory Circular Updates ACs: 150/5200-38 - 5200-36B - 5200-33C & FAA Nat’l Wildlife Strike Database Serial Report #25	Click <a href="#">here</a> for additional information Click <a href="#">here</a> to register	<b>March 26, 2019</b> ← 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. EST
<b>2019 FAC 50th Anniversary Conference &amp; Exposition</b>	<b>Ft Lauderdale Marriott Harbor Beach Resort &amp; Spa</b> <i>Registration information to be posted soon</i>	<b>August 4-7, 2019</b>

Please email [lisa@floridaairports.org](mailto:lisa@floridaairports.org) with calendar updates.

## ***Ron DeSantis eyes Space Force for FL***

(Source: Florida Politics.com)

**G**ov. Ron DeSantis wants Florida to play a leading role in President Donald Trump's directive to create a new military branch called Space Force.

DeSantis, participating in "Space Day" events last week at the Capitol, said he is requesting that a "space combatant command" as part of Space Force be located in Florida. "I think we have, obviously, facilities such as Cape Canaveral where that would be a natural fit," DeSantis said. "I think that would be very good for the state of Florida. But I also think, given our history in space, given all the resources that are now in Florida, I think it would make a lot of strategic sense to do that."



Trump on Tuesday signed a directive — Space Policy Directive 4 — ordering the Pentagon to draft legislation for Congress that would create the Space Force as a part of the US Air Force, which currently manages the space domain through the US Space Command. DeSantis said the space combatant command would be similar to the US Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa and the US Southern Command in Doral.

"We look forward to working with the White House on that," DeSantis said. "But I think that would be very good for the state of Florida if we were able to get that done." Congress has questioned the cost of a new military branch, and opposition is expected to grow after Democrats began running the US House last month. President Trump is expected to request money for the program as part of the administration's proposed budget that will likely come out next month. [Click here and read more...](#)

## ***DeSantis welcomes Amazon to Florida, says it has better political climate than New York***

**G**ov. Ron DeSantis said last week that he welcomed Amazon to put its second headquarters in Florida after the online retailer pulled out of a deal to build the campus in New York City.

"What I can say on behalf of Florida to companies like Amazon: We welcome you to come to Florida," he said. DeSantis said that it was New York's political climate — not opposition to the nearly \$3B in tax incentives New York was offering — that caused the company to leave.

Many cities, including Miami, had been courting the corporate giant, which is one of the most valuable companies in the world. After facing fierce opposition from some New York Democrats, including Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, the company backed out of the New York deal last week. DeSantis, a Republican, said that Florida's political climate was better than New York's.

"I think if you look at what just happened with Amazon in New York City, there is a hostility to some of these companies — political hostility — that I think mattered more than a lot of the other things that they were talking about," DeSantis told the Economic Club of Florida in Tallahassee. "I know that there's a debate about tax incentives, this, that, but I think it was beyond that."

"I think that this hostility to companies like Amazon, a lot of the financial institutions are consistently demagogued, and I just think they're paying a price for doing that."

He added that Florida, in addition to not having a state income tax, is also more welcoming to big companies. "I think Florida's a place where you can do well without having to face some of the political blowback that you see in other parts of the country," he said. "And so our posture here is one of welcoming, not one of demagoguery and hostility."

## ***Hackers take over Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn's Twitter account, make bomb threat at TPA***

**T**ampa police are investigating a bomb threat made against Tampa International Airport after



hackers took over Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn's Twitter account early Thursday morning with a stream of pornographic and racist tweets. The hackers also made a bomb threat against Tampa International Airport and claimed a ballistic missile was inbound to Tampa.

"SEEK IMMEDIATE SHELTER. THIS IS NOT A DRILL," the tweet

read, emphasis theirs. The tweets started just before 4 a.m. As of 7:45 a.m. the account still had not been recovered. The mayor's office responded confirming the mayor's official Twitter account had been hacked.

"We will work with the Tampa Police Department as well as all investigators to figure out how this breach was made. We urge residents to change their passwords and continue to alert officials when they see an unlikely change in account activity. We are working with law enforcement to investigate all threats made by this hack," a statement from Buckhorn spokesperson Ashley Bauman read. [Read more....](#)

### AROUND THE NATION

#### *FAA publishes three rulemaking documents on UAS operations*

The FAA has published three separate rulemaking documents aimed at accelerating the integration of UAS into the national airspace while managing the increasing public safety and security risks.



Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao originally announced and released two of the three documents at the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting in Washington, on January 14.

However, the government shutdown had delayed the FAA from publishing these documents in the Federal Register. The third rulemaking, previously unreleased, would address law enforcement concerns regarding current rules governing the display of FAA registration numbers on small unmanned aircraft. It requires owners of small drones to display their unique registration number (obtained when registering with the FAA) on an external surface. This rule took effect on Feb. 23.



#### *FAA receives \$17.5B for 2019 in budget deal* (Source: AINOnline.com)

As part of the compromise agreement on border-wall funding, the House and Senate recently approved the remaining Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations bills, including for the Department of Transportation and the FAA. The approvals will avert another shutdown as the latest stopgap government funding measure was set to expire. President Donald Trump has indicated plans to sign the bill.

Industry leaders mulled over the ramifications of the recent 35-day shutdown during a House aviation subcommittee hearing, detailing the stress on the workforce, delayed deliveries, and losses incurred from stoppages in certification activities and changes in operations, among other impacts. The House Transportation and Infrastructure leadership, backed by most of the industry, is hoping to garner support



#### ***FAC seeks all photos and memories!***

Do you have any photos of FAC events or member recognition that we can include in the FAC Archives?

If so, please send them to [gina@floridaairports.org](mailto:gina@floridaairports.org)

with the subject "FAC Photos."



for a bill that would shield the FAA from the potential of future shutdowns.

In the funding bill, Congress set aside \$17.5B for the FAA's FY2019 budget, a \$549M drop from FY2018 but \$1.3B more than the administration request. The funding includes an additional \$500M bump for Airport Improvement Program grants. All but about \$580M of the FAA's \$10.4B operations budget will come from the Airport and Airways Trust Fund. The bill provides funding for unmanned research and integration, in addition to numerous other research projects such as on advanced materials, additive manufacturing, and environmental sustainability efforts.

As in past years, Congress included measures to protect aircraft operator privacy from real-time flight-tracking programs and to retain the weight limitation at Teterboro Airport in New Jersey. Further, Congress included protections of the contract tower program from the budget whims of the administration and provided money for expansion of remote tower technologies.

Other measures are designed to ensure fuller use of organization delegation authorization and to provide up to \$3.5M for reimbursement of non-gateway airports affected by temporary flight restrictions involving travel to the President's "residences." This measure was particularly aimed at the airports shuttered by the ongoing series of TFRs in New Jersey and Florida.

## AIRPORT MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

***FDOT supports another \$20 million for Pensacola's ST Engineering project*** (Source: [pensacolajournal.com](http://pensacolajournal.com))

Pensacola's ST Engineering expansion project got another \$20 million boost last week. Pensacola Mayor Grover Robinson announced the FDOT had sent a letter to the city confirming it had identified an additional \$20 million for the project. The department has already committed \$25 million to the project. "I am proud to announce City of Pensacola has secured the remaining funding for Project Titan, which will expand the Aviation Maintenance Overhaul Repair (MRO) campus at the Pensacola International Airport," Robinson



announced the FDOT had sent a letter to the city confirming it had identified an additional \$20 million for the project. The department has already committed \$25 million to

the project. "I am proud to announce City of Pensacola has secured the remaining funding for Project Titan, which will expand the Aviation Maintenance Overhaul Repair (MRO) campus at the Pensacola International Airport," Robinson said in the announcement. FDOT is amending its work program to removing funding "from several other projects" to fund the airport project, a process it said takes about eight weeks. FDOT's work program and budget will still need to be reviewed by the Florida Legislature, but if approved, Pensacola will receive the funding in 2021 for the project.

The \$210 million project would expand ST Engineering's aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul facility at the Pensacola International Airport and create an additional 1,325 jobs. With FDOT's commitment Wednesday, the city still needs about \$4.8 million to fully fund the project.

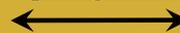


## ***Customs comes to Stuart/Witham Field*** (Source: [bjtonline.com](http://bjtonline.com))

Arriving international flights can now be cleared at Florida's Martin County Airport/Witham Field in Stuart, with the opening of a stand-alone US Customs facility. The culmination of nine years of planning, the 3,210-square-foot structure is the first intermodal clearance facility of its kind in the state and will allow pilots, boaters, residents, and visitors to the city to be processed without having to first travel to Fort Pierce or West Palm Beach.

### Welcome New Members

Mr. Pete Amador  
Partner  
**North American Construction Company**  
5700 NW 32 Court  
Miami, FL 33142  
(304) 634-5280  
[petea@nacc.us](mailto:petea@nacc.us)



Mrs. Ashley Signorelli  
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The project, funded through an 80/20 grant partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation Aviation (Multimodal) Division and the Airport Enterprise Fund, will rely on user fees to cover the cost of operations, with fees ranging from \$30 for a single-engine piston aircraft to \$500 for a heavy jet. It will operate Thursdays to Mondays from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m.



"Adding a customs facility on the airport field is a major step to accommodating more needs, particularly for international operators looking for reliable, quality FBO services in South Florida," noted Dan Capen, president of Stuart Jet Center, one of two service providers on the field. "The addition of customs will be great for the airport, the community, and those who visit us."

***Air Force Thunderbirds returning to Punta Gorda air show***

The US Air Force Thunderbirds were the last jet team to perform in Punta Gorda and will be the first to return in November for the 38th Annual Florida International Air Show.

The Thunderbirds' last Charlotte County show in 2014 was rained out on a Sunday. Air Show President Dana Carr said there is a lot of excitement for the precision jet team's return to Southwest Florida. Last year's air show drew 21,000 spectators, and Carr said he expects more than 40,000 aviation enthusiasts to flock to the airport the first weekend in November from all over Florida.

"This is four years in the making," Carr said of the nonprofit board's efforts to bring back and rebuild the air show after a 2015 spring show was canceled. "There's a huge pent-up demand for the Thunderbirds. In the past, a jet team has doubled or tripled our attendance."

The past few years, the board moved the annual air show date from spring to fall and reconfigured the performance and spectator grounds to the east. The flight path no longer passes over populated areas, which was a requirement in order to again qualify for a military jet team.

The show also had to adapt by offering breaks to allow commercial flights to take off and land at the busy airport, which last year set a record for traffic with 1.57 million passengers. [Click here to read more...](#)

***Miami International Airport gains in on-time performance***

(Source: MiamiToday.com)

**TOP 10 AIRPORTS FOR ON TIME PERFORMANCE**

Rank	Coverage	Airport name	Code	OTP 2018
1	94.0%	Moscow Sheremetyevo	SVO	87.00%
2	92.4%	Doha	DOH	84.91%
3	98.3%	Minneapolis	MSP	84.02%
4	99.7%	Detroit	DTW	83.84%
5	98.9%	Mexico City	MEX	83.35%
6	99.0%	Houston	IAH	82.26%
7	80.5%	Bangkok Don Mueang	DMK	81.52%
8	99.1%	Seattle	SEA	80.58%
<b>9</b>	<b>96.8%</b>	<b>Miami</b>	<b>MIA</b>	<b>79.91%</b>
10	87.6%	Sao Paulo Guarulhos	GRU	79.91%

Source: OAG Aviation Worldwide Limited

Miami International Airport's on-time flight performance, as analyzed and reported by the Official Airline Guide (OAG), brought it up to ninth place globally in 2018, an improvement over its ranking of 12th place in 2017.

"MIA was also the fifth most on-time airport in the US and the most on-time in Florida," said Greg Chin, communications and digital marketing director for the Miami-Dade Aviation Department. The report showed that 79.71% of flights departed on time, he said.

The OAG ranks performance among major airports (30 million to 40 million available departing seats). Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport made it into that category for the first time, the 2018 report notes.

Among US airports, Minneapolis-St. Paul fared the best, with 84.02% of flights on time (which the writers of the guide define as within 15 minutes of schedule), but it fell from its 2017 perch as No. 1 in the world. That honor went to Moscow (87%), while Doha, the capital of Qatar, held onto its 2017 rating of No. 2 with 84.91% of flights on schedule.

Next in the US rankings were Detroit (83.84%), Houston (82.26%) and Seattle (80.85). Only three Florida airports had

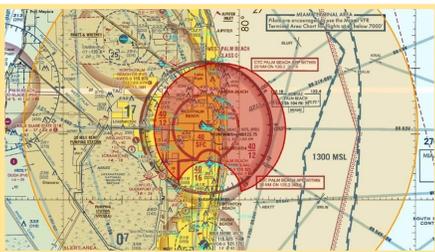
the volume of flights to be included in the listings. Other than Miami, they are Fort Lauderdale, with an on-time performance of 77.17%, and Orlando, where 76.98% of flights were on time.

In the 20 worldwide airports studied, 80% of flights were on schedule, the report notes. "Notable improvers include Mexico City, which moved from ninth place last year to fifth place this year with on-time performance of 83.35%, while Phoenix fell down the rankings from fifth to 11th, and Tokyo Narita fell from seventh to 13th place."

### ***Latest spending bill includes relief for Trump TFRs***

*(Source: GeneralAviation News.com)*

The latest \$328B government spending package, signed Feb. 15, 2019, by President Trump, includes \$3.5M in reimbursements to three airports affected by Presidential TFRs. According to officials with the AOPA, they have been pushing for a solution for airports that have been negatively impacted by presidential TFRs where the President is in residence for an extended period of time, most recently at New Jersey's Solberg and Somerset airports and Florida's Palm Beach County Park Airport, also known as Lantana. Combined, the airports suffered a net loss of nearly \$1M in 2017 alone, according to AOPA officials.



The newly passed legislation states: "Up to \$3.5M shall be for necessary expenses, including an independent verification regime,

to provide reimbursement to airport sponsors that do not provide gateway operations and providers of general aviation support services located at those airports closed during a temporary flight restriction (TFR) for any residence of the President that is designated or identified to be secured by the United States Secret Service, and for direct and incremental financial losses incurred while such airports are closed solely due to the actions of the Federal Government."

TFRs seriously impact airports financially and many businesses remain inoperable during the restrictions, including FBOs, flight schools, maintenance shops, and other aviation activities, AOPA officials noted.

### ***VRB celebrates 90 Years***

On March 16, from Noon until 4:00 p.m., Vero Beach will celebrate 90-years of history of the Vero Beach Regional Airport. This free event will include aircraft displays, exhibits and flight simulators.



In 1928, the airport was built on 100 acres, according to the Indian River County Historical Society. Eastern Airlines used the airport to fuel and, later, as a hub for its passenger service. The airport's growth erupted with the military. In 1935, the Army Air Corps landed more than 200 airplanes to practice military aeronautical maneuvers. In 1941, the Navy used VRB as a training facility, building barracks, a three-story terminal and other buildings. After the war, the Navy left Vero, but the buildings and the improved air field remained and were deeded to the City to remain as a public use airport. Commuter airlines flew out of VRB from 1932 to 1996, including Eastern Air Lines and US Air Express. American Eagle was the last commercial airline flying from Vero Beach, offering flights to Miami until it pulled out in 1996.

It would be almost 20 years before commercial passenger flights resumed at the airport. In 2015, Maine-based Elite Airways started offering flight service to Liberty International Airport in Newark, NJ. Currently, Elite offers nonstop service to Newark and, seasonally, to Asheville, NC. Businesses such as pilot training, piper aircraft manufacturing and car rental companies continue to thrive. Piper Aircraft, which began building aircraft in 1961 at VRB, is celebrating its highest employment since the 2008 recession and is expecting to exceed last years production levels. Piper currently has 1,009 employees at the Vero plant, a 14% increase from a year ago, Piper spokeswoman Jackie Carlon said.

Piper's average wage is about 5% higher than the average for manufacturing jobs in Indian River County and 20% higher than the county's average wage. While Airport Director Eric Menger sees the airport remaining small, he expects consistent growth over the next 20 years.

***A Look Back: Eastern Airlines once flew high over Miami. Then came the day it was grounded forever***

*(Source: miamiherald.com)*

**Original article, March 10, 1989**



**E**astern Airlines, as we know it, died Thursday (March 9<sup>th</sup>) in US Bankruptcy Court. Some said it was a suicide; others that Eastern was dispatched by out-of-towners. There were 30,000 dependents and many more mourners. Eastern Airlines was 60 years old and had served its community well.

“I never believed I’d be at a press conference like this today,” said Eastern Chairman Frank Lorenzo, one lightning rod in the fierce storm wrecking the company. “Nevertheless, we are here today to announce that Eastern has filed to reorganize itself, (a situation) brought about by the company’s pilots union.”

President Phil Bakes said he hoped to resurrect the company, but in a much smaller form. Analysts said Eastern, already engaged in a fire sale, was trying to raise cash by selling 10 percent of its fleet. They said any attempt at revitalization was a long shot.

“We intend to operate our airline, make no mistake about that,” Bakes said after Eastern sought protection from creditors by filing the Chapter 11 reorganization petition in New York. “But the steps that we’ve been forced to take because of the virtual shutdown of the company will also require that we entertain transactions that . . . will provide liquidity and cash resources,” Bakes said.

In other words, he plans to sell chunks of the company.

Bakes and Lorenzo apologized to passengers and to loyal employees for the chaos and heartbreak of this past week.

“The last five days have been the saddest five days of my

life,” Bakes said.

South Florida’s second-largest corporate employer, with 10,000 local workers, Eastern has been virtually grounded since the International Association of Machinists, the company’s largest and most intractable union, posted picket lines Saturday after contract talks collapsed. The company had planned to fly through a strike, but the plans were demolished by a fatal miscalculation: Eastern’s 3,600 pilots surprised management by steadfastly honoring picket lines.

After days of disorder, the airline gave up, canceling all service except on the Northeast shuttle and a thrice-weekly flight from Miami to Latin America.

In a purely legal sense, the bankruptcy petition has no effect on the labor-management battle. **Keep reading...**

***Proposed bill would allow Florida students to ditch advanced math for industry certifications***

**S**tate Senator Travis Hutson (R-St. Johns) introduced a bill recently that, if passed, would dramatically change traditional four-year graduation requirements for high school students by doing away with the requirement to pass some advanced math and science courses.

Under the proposed bill, SB 770, students would be able to replace high-level courses with various industry certifications that are already in place. If they pass the certification courses, along with the required course curriculum, the student would graduate with a high school diploma. The option would help students find an alternative to the college track, Hutson said, and allow them to be workforce ready upon graduation.

**Current Certification Programs - Aviation**

**Here’s a short list of certified academic classes in the Aviation sector:**

- \* **Aircraft/Avionics Electronics Technician**
- \* **FAA Maintenance Technician**
- \* **FAA private pilot**
- \* **FAA ground school instruction**
- \* **Agricultural - Unmanned aircraft systems**
- \* **Aerospace/Aircraft assembly**
- \* **Aerospace Technician**



"We have a performance and funding formula that is geared towards high school graduation in Florida. We are forcing districts to take children that probably can't pass some of these classes and just make them try. The children suffer, they get frustrated," Hutson told *The Record*.

Currently, students need 24 credits to graduate. "Under my proposed bill, you only have to take 18 total courses and in math, you don't have to pass Algebra II; you can replace that with an industry certification course that is more technical and career-focused," Hutson said. Requirements for language arts and social studies would remain the same. There are over 400 certifications that are approved by the Department of Education, Hutson said, such as carpentry and Microsoft certifications. Many of the certifications are already available through academies in the St. Johns County School District.

The vocational track would also allow students to graduate in three years provided they maintain at least a 2.0 grade point average, according to Hutson, giving students the option to enter the workforce sooner. Republican Representatives Wyman Duggan (R) of Jacksonville and Tyler Sirois (R) of Cocoa filed a companion bill with Hutson and the bills have the backing of St. Johns County school board member Beverly Slough.

"There are 273,700 job openings in our state," David Hart, Florida Chamber of Commerce's executive vice president of government relations, told WUSF. "But there are also 335,000 individuals looking for a job. And we call that the 'talent gap.'" [Click here to read more...](#)

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**Position:** Commercial Properties Administrator  
**Salary:** \$50,689.60 to \$54,579.20 annually  
**Closing:** Friday, March 15, 2019

**POSITION SUMMARY:** Responsible for the administration and management of a portfolio of tenant use and lease agreements. Draft leases, airline and other agreements at the direction of management. Administer and confirm compliance with the terms and conditions of the Agreements. Serve as project coordinator and Authority's liaison with customers to understand, evaluate, present and track tenant issues and projects. Provide real estate and financial analytical support, to management staff. Represent the Authority in assigned matters pertaining to Greater Orlando Aviation Authority (GOAA) properties. Prepare and process draft lease documents and amendments to agreements. Coordinate the execution of agreements, and distribute executed agreements. Interface with other Authority departments to confirm the Authority's interests are represented in matters such as planning, construction, environmental issues, financial risks, security issues, utilities and other lease compliance issues. Prepare and process form agreements, amendments and annual renewals. Assist in the development of bid documents and Request For Proposals (RFP) for the use, lease and development of land and facilities Draft board and committee memos, presentations and other business proposals as required. Maintain a portfolio of leases in the lease management system. Responsible for contractual issues with leasing of non-terminal airport properties for airlines, governmental agencies, and non-aviation tenants at both airports, and airline service providers currently serving or proposing service to Orlando International Airport. For more information, click [here](#).