First, I would like to welcome you to the inaugural “Connecting with Willard Airport” newsletter. The semi-annual publication is designed to keep our community updated on airport projects, initiatives, and overall operations. I couldn’t be happier to be selected as the next Executive Director of Willard Airport and look forward to leading our organization into the future. Willard is truly a dynamic airport, filled with many opportunities for the future growth of airline service, improved passenger amenities, and revitalization of our facilities. Over the next year, we will be undertaking numerous projects including updates to the airport terminal roadway signage, improved main parking lot signage, and the installation of device charging stations in the main terminal. In addition, the airport will be re-constructing the airport entrance road in late 2019, a much-needed project to fix our roadways at the end of their useful life. The airport is well underway in conducting an Airport Master Plan study, which will create a 20-year plan outlining the future needs of our airport infrastructure, and will also highlight opportunities for growth and development throughout our airport property. I look forward to keeping the community informed as we continue to make progress on our initiatives, projects, and infrastructure updates. This is truly an amazing time to be at Willard Airport, as we position our organization for future growth.

From the Director, Tim Bannon, A.A.E.

Flightstar - A Hidden Gem for Champaign-Urbana

Tenants and business partners are a large part of what keeps Willard Airport successful, Flightstar is no exception. With the largest footprint at the airport, Willard's Fixed Base Operator (FBO) has a hand in general aviation, commercial
Aircraft maintenance, and charter operations. Flightstar has a large economic impact across our region.

Read more about what makes Flightstar an asset to not just Willard but to the Champaign-Urbana community as a whole.

**Paty Stipes Earns Tourism Impact Award**

American Airlines customer service agent, Paty Stipes, was recently awarded the Tourism Impact Award by Visit Champaign County at their Annual Toast to Tourism.

The award honors local tourism ambassadors who's efforts have paved the way for tourism to the greater Champaign County area or enhanced the visitor experience.

We are happy to have Paty at Willard Airport, as she makes a positive impact on our guests with her positive attitude and excellent customer service.

Congrats, Paty!

**Economic Impact Study**

In partnership with the Champaign County Economic Development Corporation, Willard is in the process of an Economic Impact Study. The study will measure annual and daily economic impact on the county, average daily passengers, jobs, visitors to the area, taxes generated, and more. It will also focus on the impact of adding direct service to Washington, DC. The airport is lucky to have the support of many sponsors including University of Illinois Research Park, Parkland College, Visit Champaign County, Champaign County Association of REALTORS, FRASCA International, Inc., City of Champaign, and Flightstar.

**$9.9M FAA Grant Awarded to Willard Airport**

The University of Illinois-Willard Airport is excited to have received a $9.9M grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

“This grant will be used for the reconstruction of runway 4/22, one of the airport’s primary commercial service runways,” says Bannon. “The last major rehabilitation of the runway was in 1978, making this a much-needed project. We are thrilled to have received this grant, and anticipate construction starting in early 2021.”

**Master Plan Update**

The Master Plan is ongoing and continues to gather information, most recently on facility requirements. A Master Plan is a series of studies, reports, and planning documents that define an airports future. The airport Master Plan will focus on landside development needs with an emphasis on the air passenger terminal.

Learn more about our Master Plan and give your feedback.
**TSA Precheck Enrollment Coming in October**

If you missed the popular TSA Precheck enrollment in June, you're in luck! Willard will be hosting TSA Precheck enrollment October 28-November 1. The fee is $85 for a five year enrollment. You can apply online and select Willard Airport for your in-person enrollment!

Some perks of being enrolled in TSA Precheck include: shorter security lines and no need to remove shoes, belts, or laptops from bags.

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**Entrance Road Rehab**

The next big project, resurfacing the entrance road to the airport from Highway 45, will take place this fall.

“The entrance roadway project is very critical for the airport, as the existing pavement is in poor condition,” says Bannon. “The project is valued at approximately $750,000, making it one of the largest roadway rehabilitation projects we have undertaken in recent history. The project is funded through IDOT, local Passenger Facility Charges (PFC), and local operating funds. We look forward to the project getting underway, as it will greatly improve the airport roadway infrastructure and overall customer experience.”

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**Advertising in the Terminal**

With approximately 800 visitors a day, Willard Airport is one of the first impressions a visitor will notice when arriving to Champaign County. If you're interested in advertising your business or organization contact Ashley Hipsher at ahipsher@illinois.edu.