

Illini Flyer

Fly Champaign-Urbana News & Updates



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Air Service Spotlight



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Director's Corner

*Tim Bannon, AAE - Executive Director
University of Illinois – Willard Airport*

It's a busy summer at University of Illinois – Willard Airport. Our terminal is beginning to look like it did before the pandemic, with almost 500 people a day flying in and out.

We're working hard to modernize the terminal and improve the travel experience. We just won a million dollar grant to completely re-build the TSA security checkpoint and queuing area. The new checkpoint will eliminate the lines that sometimes back-up to our escalators, and speed-up the system to get you to your gate more quickly.

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Making Security a Breeze

The current cramped security checkpoint at Willard Airport is going to be completely replaced. When it's done, the TSA will be able to process passengers twice as fast as the current rate, reducing your wait time, and making the experience much less stressful.



Architectural Rendering of Relocated Security Screening Checkpoint and Passenger Queue Area

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Parkland Institute Of Aviation Enrollment Growing With Nationwide Pilot Shortage

It's never been a better time to become a pilot, and the Parkland College Institute of Aviation at Willard Airport reports the largest incoming class in its history.



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Willard Passes FAA Inspection with Flying Colors

Annually, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) inspectors descend upon Willard Airport to ensure compliance with all airfield safety and training compliance programs. The inspections include document review and an on-site inspection. This year, after multiple days of scrutiny, inspectors confirmed Willard Airport as discrepancy free, validating the hard work of all employees who are tireless in their efforts to keep the airport and its passengers safe.



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Training the Next Generation of Leaders: Willard Internship Program

Willard Airport launched a new management internship for the 2021-22 school year. Tingting He was selected for the job. She worked hard on projects directly assigned by the airport's executive director. And the internship helped her land a new job at the airport in Birmingham, Alabama, before she even completed her master's degree at the University of Illinois.

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Willard Welcomes New Fire Marshal

After 21 years on the job, long time Willard Airport fire marshal John Riegel retired in January. Executive Director Tim Bannon has promoted ten-year Willard firefighting veteran John Cumbee to the role. He has 20 years of total firefighting and administrative experience, and loves working to keep Willard Airport safe and secure.



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