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Willard Airport Selected as Primary Airport of the Year by the Illinois Department of Transportation for 2023

CHAMPAIGN, IL (September 26, 2023) – The University of Illinois Willard Airport was selected as Primary Airport of the Year by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for 2023. Willard Airport received the award from IDOT on Monday, September 25, 2023, during the Illinois Public Airport Association Fall Conference in Galena, IL. A primary airport is defined as a commercial service airport with more than 10,000 passenger boardings each year. Willard Airport was selected because of their accomplishments, including an outstanding partnership with IDOT and a strong commitment to customer safety and satisfaction. Among the award considerations are cooperation and coordination with the state, safety record, maintenance of the facility, the promotion of aviation, and educational events.

“We are honored to be selected as the Primary Airport of the Year. We wish to thank our dedicated staff, tenants, American Airlines, and the community for supporting our airport and helping us to stay focused on our mission of providing connectivity to the world. We appreciate being recognized by IDOT and look forward to continuing a strong partnership into the future.”-Executive Director, Tim Bannon.

Willard Airport is home to Flightstar Corporation which offers world class fixed base operations, and maintenance repair and overhaul services. Willard is also home to the Parkland College Institute of Aviation, whose mission is to provide industry leading flight training for tomorrow’s aviators. American Airlines offers daily non-stop service to Chicago O’Hare and Dallas/Fort Worth.

“Receiving this award reaffirms our commitment to our mission as the doorstep to the University of Illinois and our community, to be accountable, open-minded, and innovative and remain focused on convenience and seamless connectivity to the world.” -Executive Director, Tim Bannon.

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