



---

# DUPAGE AIRPORT AUTHORITY

## DuPage Airport Wins National Award for Excellence in Procurement

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

June 1, 2012

**CONTACT:**

George Bogdanich  
Serafin & Associates, Inc.  
[georgebogdanich@aol.com](mailto:georgebogdanich@aol.com) or (312) 943-1955

**West Chicago** — Adding to its reputation as a very successful turnaround story, the DuPage Airport Authority has been selected as this year’s recipient of the Excellence in Procurement Award from the Virginia-based Airport Consultants Council (ACC) at a luncheon in Denver, Colorado.

According to the ACC, “The DuPage Airport Authority has an open, documented procurement process that is readily available to the public. They also have a unique approach to forming their selection committees, including involving another airport representative. This is a critical component of an effective procurement system,” said award selection committee chair Tom Butcher.

ACC President Paula Hochstetler noted that the DuPage Airport was cited last year by U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood as “a model for the nation” and added that “having a good transparent procurement process in place ensures that qualified firms are able to complete in a fair and open manner. That benefits not only the airport, but the traveling public as well.”

Before the current leadership was in place, the airport was considered a patronage operation and firms that made the right campaign contributions had an inside track to securing service contracts. That changed under the leadership of DuPage Airport Authority Chairman Dan Goodwin and Executive Director David Bird, who instituted extensive changes to remove the airport from local politics and assure transparency in the competitive bidding process. As a result, the airport has turned its finances around, and after losing \$2 million a year less than a decade ago, the airport now produces a \$2 million profit and is debt free.

In accepting the award on behalf of the Authority, Executive Director David Bird said that “the Board of Commissioners and staff has spent the last eight years working tirelessly to implement management policies and procedures that reflect fiscal responsibility, openness and transparency, and to have our efforts recognized by the ACC is truly gratifying.”