

For Immediate Release
March 15, 2024

Media Contact: Kim Hunt
Birmingham Airport Authority
khunt@flybhm.com
#205-510-6676

Birmingham Airport Authority to Host Annual Conference of Airport Executives from the Southeast

Conference a Mix of Business and Fun in the Magic City

BIRMINGHAM, AL (March 15, 2024) – The Birmingham Airport Authority is preparing to welcome 500 visitors from the Southeast Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives (SEC-AAAE). The SEC-AAAE is made up of airport and aviation professionals from ten southeastern states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The event will take place at the Sheraton Birmingham, March 17 – 19th.

Airports compete for the opportunity to host the conference and to showcase their cities to members of the SEC-AAAE. “We are excited to welcome our colleagues to Birmingham,” said Ronald F. Mathieu, President and CEO of the Birmingham Airport Authority. “This group understands the business of developing and operating first class airports,” said Mathieu. “We have created an agenda that is full of educational sessions and also highlights our culture and vibrant way of life here in Birmingham.”

At the conference in Birmingham, attendees will hear from experts on some of the most pressing topics in the industry:

- AI and Cybersecurity at airports
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in airports
- Air Service Development
- Human Trafficking
- Airport Construction Planning
- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Update

The Keynote Address will feature retired Air Force Colonel Chris R. Stricklin, a former member of the famed Thunderbirds, who ejected from the F-16 he was flying just seconds before it crashed during an airshow back in 2003. His message of survival and how the experience changed his life is the focus of a best-selling book, *Survivor's Obligation: Navigating an Intentional Life*. The Keynote session will take place on Monday, March 18th at 10:00am at the host hotel. Please view the conference agenda here:

<https://secaaae-conference.com/conference-agenda/>

AAAE is the world's largest professional organization for airport executives, providing members representation in Washington D.C., training, meetings and conferences, and an accreditation program. The Southeast Chapter of AAAE also provides scholarships to college students who are excelling in an aviation-related field of study.

If you would like additional information about the conference or to set up interviews with airport executives or experts on the session panels, please contact Kim Hunt, VP of Communications for the Birmingham Airport Authority.

About Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport

As Alabama's largest commercial airport, Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport has served as a gateway to the sky for more than 90 years. Governed by the Birmingham Airport Authority, the airport continues to be a catalyst for growth and economic development for the entire region. For more information, visit flybhm.com or follow BHM on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

###