



## Arizona Airports Association

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### **Recipients of Arizona Airports Association (AzAA) Awards of Excellence Announced**

PHOENIX (April 26, 2019) – The Arizona Airports Association (AzAA) awarded two Airport Executives of the Year and one Corporate Member of the Year at its Spring Conference hosted by Laughlin-Bullhead International Airport and held in Laughlin, Nevada. Mr. Joe Husband (Glendale Municipal Airport) and Dr. Robin Sobotta (Prescott Regional Airport) received 2019 Airport Executives of the Year Awards, and Mr. Jared Bass (Dibble Engineering) received the 2019 Corporate Member of the Year Award. Each honoree has made lasting positive impacts on airports in Arizona, and AzAA recognizes their outstanding contributions.

Mr. Joe Husband, CM, CAE, who is currently serving as Airport Administrator and General Manager of the Glendale Municipal Airport, was awarded Airport Executive of the Year. Mr. Husband's airport career spans almost thirty years serving in many different management roles in varied work areas. He has been Director of three airports over the years, including two general aviation reliever airports and one Part 139-certificated airport in transition. During 2018, he managed two airports simultaneously for over six months: Glendale Municipal Airport (where he won the 2018 Aviation Safety Advisory Group of Arizona [ASAG] Airport Safety Award) and Kingman Municipal Airport. Mr. Husband is regularly called upon to present and speak on airport topics at various conferences and community organizations. He is a Lead FAASTeam (Federal Aviation Administration safety team) representative, Board member and Past-Treasurer of ASAG, and former Past President of AzAA. He is an advocate and ambassador for Arizona's airports as well as national, state, regional, and local aviation events. Mr. Husband is also very active in charitable organizations. He was a founding member of the SkyKids Arizona organization, which supports children with disabilities through two aviation events each year at Scottsdale and Goodyear Airports. He conducts and participates

in aviation outreach and service endeavors such as scouting events, school outreach programs, community organization outreach events, Young Eagles events, and Civil Air Patrol events and programs.

The second Airport Executive of the Year award recipient, Dr. Robin Sobotta, AAE, is Airport Director of Prescott Regional Airport. Dr. Sobotta has been playing a role in the aviation community in Arizona for the last 17 years, including administration, operations, and public outreach at three commercial service airports and two general aviation airports. She also has 17 years in aviation/aerospace-focused education, training, and research and is the Founding Chair of Embry Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU)-Prescott School of Business. In February 2017, Dr. Sobotta took a temporary leave of absence from ERAU-Prescott School of Business to serve as Director of Aviation for Prescott Regional Airport. Since that time, the growth and development of the aviation industry in the Prescott region has exploded, and her integral role helped bring the first-ever jet-service to Prescott Regional Airport. Through the dedicated work of Dr. Sobotta and her staff, the airport reached over 10,000 annual enplanements, became a Primary Regional Airport, and is on track to reach approximately 25,000 enplanements in 2019. Currently, Dr. Sobotta is managing the development of a new terminal building and a full-length parallel taxiway relocation.

Mr. Jared Bass, PE, was named 2019 Corporate Member of the Year. Mr. Bass is a Vice President at Dibble Engineering, a Sr. Project Manager in its Airport Development Group, and a well-known engineer and consultant with experience at 16 Arizona airports over the past 12 years. He has worked successfully with numerous individuals and entities at the federal, state, and local levels, including: City of Prescott (Prescott Regional Airport); Arizona Department of Transportation, Multimodal Planning Division, Aeronautics Group; United States Forest Service; Federal Aviation Administration Airports District Office and Air Traffic Divisions; Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport Authority; City of Chandler Municipal Airport; Pinal Airpark; City of Mesa Falcon Field; and many other airports and agencies throughout the western and southwestern United States. He was nominated, and ultimately awarded, Corporate Member of the Year award for his work on Prescott Regional Airport's recent \$6 million runway rehabilitation project. The timely completion of this important regional project enabled United Express (operated by Sky West Airlines) to begin service on schedule on August 29, 2018.

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The Arizona Airports Association (AzAA) was formed in 1979 to bring together the representatives of public and private airports and others interested in the general benefit of aviation to provide information, expertise, and support to all those in the State of Arizona's aviation industry. Further, the Association works to foster public recognition of airports and the airport executive profession, and to assist in the future development of air transportation in Arizona.

[www.azairports.org](http://www.azairports.org)