



For Immediate Release
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Williams Gateway named "Airport of the Year"

MESA, Ariz.- Williams Gateway Airport was selected by the Arizona Department of Transportation's 2004 Airport of the Year. On behalf of the Williams Gateway Airport Authority, Executive Director Lynn Kusy accepted the prestigious award at this year's Arizona Airports Association Spring Conference on April 28 in Laughlin, Nev. "We have made phenomenal achievements at Williams Gateway in the transformation from a military facility to a successful private airport and economic center," Mesa Mayor Keno Hawker said. "It is an honor to be recognized by our aviation peers." The selection criteria consisted of calendar year 2003 accomplishments in community relations, airport management and airport maintenance as well as innovative activities and programs implemented at the Airport. The year 2003 was an exceptionally busy one at Williams Gateway Airport. Some major accomplishments include:

- Initiated commercial passenger service including Transportation Security Administration certification
 - Constructed an \$11.3 million cargo ramp and associated taxiway
 - Executed a lease for a private developer to construct a 40,000-square-foot cargo facility
 - Established a U.S. Customs cargo inspection facility and received User Fee Airport status
 - Welcomed the world's largest aircraft, the Antonov 225, which transported a 142-ton transformer from Austria
 - Set an Airport record for annual fuel sales
 - Maintained an existing facilities occupancy rate of 96 percent
- Completed construction of a new 26,000-square-foot hangar/office complex
- Broke ground on a 15,700-square-foot office/warehouse building and executed ground leases with private developers for three more hangars totaling over 51,000 square feet
 - Celebrated the Airport's 10th anniversary by hosting an open house that was attended by over 3,000 guests
 - Completed the entryway features including artwork, landscaping and signage
 - Established a \$200,000 cooperative marketing partnership with Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport

- Recognized by the Federal Aviation Administration for five consecutive years of perfect Federal Aviation Regulation Part 139 compliance and pursuing safety in a progressive fashion

The Airport is owned and operated by the Williams Gateway Airport Authority that includes the Gila River Indian Community, Gilbert, Mesa and Queen Creek. For more information, contact Marie Frank at (480) 988-7606. General Airport information can be found on the Williams Gateway Airport Web Site - www.flywga.org.