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**For more information contact:
Brian Sexton
Community Relations Coordinator
Office: 480-988-7618
Pager: 602-208-3720
Email: bsexton@flywga.org**

Williams Gateway Airport's Economic Impact Tops \$250 Million

MESA, ARIZ. --- Williams Gateway Airport contributed more than \$251 million to the local economy in 2002, according to data provided by the Arizona Department of Transportation. That figure was more than double the \$114 million measured in 1998, the last time ADOT surveyed the economic impact of the State's airports.

"These figures represent a small fraction of the success we can expect in the coming years," said Mesa Mayor and Williams Gateway Airport Authority Chairman Keno Hawker. "The Williams Gateway Airport area is projected to be a major job center for the East Valley, providing more than 100,000 new jobs by 2035. As a steward of the Airport, it is my intention to protect it from residential encroachment and set policy to ensure it can reach its potential."

Williams Gateway's impact included payroll of \$71 million and sales of \$180 million, including all direct on-airport impacts, visitor spending, and multiplier effects. These figures do not include the Williams Campus.

The Airport is owned and operated by the Williams Gateway Airport Authority, which includes Mesa, the Gila River Indian Community, Gilbert, and Queen Creek. For more information, visit www.flywga.org.