



Greetings! As Conference Chairman of the 2022 North Carolina Airports Association conference, I want to welcome you to Winston Salem and the beautiful Benton Convention Center. This is the first time this conference has been held in this great historic City. Winston-Salem is a **green city**, boasts one of the top Farmer's Markets in the country and it is on the top 10 list of places with low cost of living and high job growth. Winston-Salem was North Carolina's primary city in its heyday, with booming **textile industries** and **tobacco fields** stretching as far as the eye could see. However, in recent times the arts, as well as the biotech and healthcare industries, have taken center stage.

The theme of the 2022 Conference is *Cultivating Airport Innovation*. The topics within this Conference will provide you with a unique opportunity to learn from a host of presenters on innovative strategies in airport design, construction & development, commercial development, UAS, and the future of Air Traffic Control, just to name a few. Steve Gilliland is making a return visit with his highly entertaining style of motivation. Steve is an iconic speaker, brilliant comedian and a member of the Speaker Hall of Fame. He has impacted countless lives with his words of wisdom and is regarded as one of the all-time best in the speaking industry. Our keynote speaker is Manley Feinberg, II. During Manley's eleven years with Build-A-Bear Workshop, his leadership direction helped take the revolutionary retail concept from 40 stores to over 400 worldwide, realizing revenue growth from 55 million to over 474 million. He built an award-winning reputation for implementing business solutions and support that produced measurable results every day.

The aviation industry is still being impacted by COVID-19. At the crisis peak, passenger volumes at many airports approached zero and aircrafts remained on the ground for months. However, through innovation, aviation is on its way to making a comeback and airport sites and airport cities are slowly but steadily growing again.

Exhibitor and Sponsor opportunities can be found on the website at www.ncairports.org / click on convention – exhibitor – sponsor – register. Attendees look to our conference to gather new information on what is available to them for services, technology, paving, construction, marketing, operational needs, and more. We look forward to seeing you in Winston Salem, NC in April of 2022. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Association Business Manager, Lisa Edwards listed below.

John M. Ferguson, A.A.E., NCAP, NCAA Vice President & Conference Chair

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