

Airport News



John Ferguson (Statesville Regional Airport) introduces a panel discussion including from left, Bobby Walston (NCDOT), Dr. Daniel Findley (North Carolina State Institute for Transportation Research and Education), Amanda Conner (NCDOT), Michael O'Harra (FAA Southern Region Administrator), and Duane Johnson (FAA). Photos by Kim Stevens.

North Carolina Airports Hold 42nd Annual Conference

The North Carolina Airports Association (NCAA) met in Winston-Salem at the Benton Convention Center to celebrate its 42nd Anniversary Conference. With 400 attendees and 51 exhibitors, the three-day event began on Wednesday, April 20th, with its popular golf tournament and opening reception. **(Pictured at right are, James Bennett (Paslay Management Group) with NCAA President, Mark Davidson).**



This year's NCAA President, Mark Davidson, had the pleasure of presiding over the annual conference in his hometown of Winston-Salem and said it was amazing. "As the host city for the first time in the history of the organization, we wanted to put

our best foot forward and the feedback we got has been great, said Davidson, who is the Airport Director for Winston-Salem's Smith Reynolds Airport. Davidson noted that one of the best attributes of the Benton Convention Center is the proximity of hotels and restaurants which were in walking distance for all the attendees.



The theme for the conference was “Cultivating Airport Innovation” and it fell in line with Winston-Salem’s Innovation Quarter and what is happening in the community. “We held innovative sessions that ranged from Virtual Air Traffic Towers to Low Altitude UAS Traffic Management System,” said Davidson. “The panelists we secured were nationally known and became the stars of the conference.”

(Pictured above are Roland Gilliam, Moore County Airport Authority, left and Scott Malta, Manager, Moore County Airport.)

The event, which included an end-of-conference bonus session on Innovation in Cybersecurity, provided attendees the opportunity to network with other aviation professionals and see the latest developments from the conference exhibitors.

The mission of the NC Airports Association is to strengthen North Carolina airports through legislative advocacy, professional growth, and by promoting the positive impacts of airports.



Cindy Pearce with Parrish & Partners, left and Connor Mullaney with RDM.



Pictured above from left are, Richard Sullivan, Doug Banez and Chris White.