

October 24, 2022

On behalf of the North Carolina Airport Association Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2023 annual conference at the beautiful Pinehurst Resort in Pinehurst, North Carolina. Better known as the "Home of American Golf" Pinehurst boasts of its world-renowned golf courses and the soon to come Golf House Pinehurst being developed by the USGA. The Village of Pinehurst has great shopping, dining, local breweries, a world class spa, and entertainment for everyone.

The theme of the 2023 Conference is *Airports-Leading the Way in Economic Development*. We have an exciting list of experts on tap that will share insights on how to position your airport for economic development and success. The topics include How to Prepare Yourself to Land the Next Development Project, Community Marketing Strategies, Knowing Your Funding Sources and a Real Case Study "Boom". This will all take place following our motivational keynote, Scott Burrows who will present on Vision-Mindset-Grit. In addition, my good friend and NASA Astronaut Col. Curtis Brown will share his inspirational story at our banquet dinner of how a small-town boy from eastern North Carolina became one of the most decorated astronauts in NASA history. He will also share his passion for providing education scholarships through his foundation both in his home state of North Carolina and across the country. Hoping to inspire future aviators and airport professionals, Col. Brown will leave you encouraged and invigorated.

The State of North Carolina is changing rapidly with opportunities at every turn and airports are vital to the economic development strategy. We hope that these key professionals you will hear and learn from during this conference will continue to steer NC as a leader for Economic Development at airports. Hearing the "State of Industry Update", the NC Division of Aviation update and the fireside chat with the Federal Aviation Administration, will position us all to work collaboratively in this effort.

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 appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you in Pinehurst, NC in March 2023. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Association Business Manager, Lisa Edwards listed below.

Regards,

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Edwin H. Madden, Jr., NCAA Vice President & Conference Chair