

September 27, 2023

On behalf of the North Carolina Airport Association Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2024 annual conference at the beautiful Omni Grove Park Inn & Spa in Asheville, North Carolina. The resort is in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, close to Blue Ridge Parkway - America's Favorite Drive. Our historic resort provides a serene experience along with a Donald Ross-designed championship course. Asheville's resort restaurants and bars cater to every taste, offering a variety of culinary experiences.

The theme of the 2024 Conference is 'Challenge Accepted.' We have an exciting list of experts on tap that will share insights on how to take on the challenges of airport management such as supply chain, alternative construction and economics, pilot shortage, human resources, and other important industry updates. This will all take place following our motivational and educational keynote, Christian "Boo" Boucousis, CEO of Afterburner, Inc. who will present on 'Flawless Execution' covering a larger, comprehensive vision creating inspired alignment to the aviation industry's overall strategy. Boo will help create focus in a world where rapid change is the only constant. In addition, magician and mentalist Kenneth (Ken) Salaz with Astonishment Arts LLC will be a pure entertainment presentation after the NCAA annual banquet dinner. Mr. Salaz is one of the world's premier corporate entertainers. His astonishing abilities of mentalism and magic have been featured on national television including "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon," to name one. Mr. Salaz provides a wide variety of entertainment including mentalism, magic, mind-reading, and pick pocketing. Audiences are captivated by his interactive, friendly, and humorous style of entertainment that baffles and engages all members of the audience.

North Carolina is changing rapidly with opportunities at every turn and airports are vital to the economic development strategy and challenges faced in the industry. 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 to take on challenges now and in the future. 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 Asheville, NC in April 2024. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Association Business Manager, Emily Winberg at *emily@ncairports.org*.

Regards,

John Coon, A.A.E.

NCAA Vice President & Conference Chair