

Fiscal Year  
2015

# Annual Report of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission



Office of Aeronautics  
Michigan Department of Transportation



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# Michigan Aeronautics Commission

In accordance with the Aeronautics Code of the State of Michigan, the Michigan Aeronautics Commission is responsible for the general supervision of aeronautics within the state. Appointments to the commission are made by the governor and are subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. In addition to five appointed members, the commission consists of four statutory members that include the directors of the departments of Transportation, Natural Resources, State Police, and Military and Veterans Affairs. Additionally, the Department of Transportation’s executive administrator for the Office of Aeronautics is designated as director of the commission. Below are the current commissioners.



**RICK FIDDLER**  
**CHAIRMAN**

Vice President  
Amway Aviation  
Grand Rapids, MI



**LAURA MESTER**  
**COMMISSIONER**

Representing Kirk T. Steudle  
Department of Transportation  
Lansing, MI



**RUSSELL KAVALHUNA**  
**VICE CHAIRMAN**

Executive Director, Flight Operations  
Western Michigan University  
College of Aviation  
Battle Creek, MI



**CAPT. JOE GASPER**  
**COMMISSIONER**

Representing Col. Kriste K. Etue  
Department of State Police  
Lansing, MI



**ROGER SALO**  
**COMMISSIONER**

Director of Aviation Masco Corp.-Retired  
Instructor, Western Michigan University  
College of Aviation, Battle Creek, MI  
Founding MBAA Member



**BRIG. GEN. LEN ISABELLE**  
**COMMISSIONER**

Representing Maj. Gen. Gregory J. Vadnais  
Department of Military and  
Veterans Affairs  
Lansing, MI



**J. DAVID VANDERVEEN**  
**COMMISSIONER**

Director of Central Services  
for Oakland County  
Waterford, MI



**KEVIN JACOBS**  
**COMMISSIONER**

Representing Keith Creagh  
Department of Natural Resources  
Roscommon, MI



**PETE KAMARAINEN**  
**COMMISSIONER**

Owner of Grand Air Aviation, Inc.  
Grand Ledge, MI



**MICHAEL TROUT**  
**DIRECTOR**

Executive Administrator  
Office of Aeronautics  
Department of Transportation  
Lansing, MI

Michigan Department of Transportation  
Office of Aeronautics  
2700 Port Lansing Road  
Lansing, MI 48906  
Phone: 517-335-9568  
[www.michigan.gov/aero](http://www.michigan.gov/aero)



## Letter from the Executive Administrator



In accordance with Sec. 32 of P.A. 327 of 1945, I am pleased to submit this report which summarizes the Michigan Aeronautics Commission’s meeting proceedings, along with the Office of Aeronautics (Aero) activities for the Fiscal Year 2015. The report is intended to present a look back at topics that best represent the commission and Aero in carrying out its responsibilities.

It is an exciting time for aeronautics, as new technologies and innovations continue to challenge our efforts on many fronts. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has issued new rules related to Unmanned Aerial Systems and proposed rules related to the State Block Grant Program, which will require us to stay engaged and responsive. FAA reauthorization issues related to the Airport Improvement Program, Essential Air Service, and the Contract Tower Program directly impact our customers and will be monitored closely.

As of this writing, we are pleased that Gov. Rick Snyder signed new state legislation that will help stabilize our budget and allow us to continue to meet the high expectations of Michigan residents, airports, businesses and the commission, as we move forward to another successful year.

During Fiscal Year 2015, the Michigan Aeronautics Commission met six times and approved a number of contracts, projects, and reports. We hope the reader finds the contents of the report both useful and interesting. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Aeronautics at 517-335-9568 or visit our website at [www.michigan.gov/aero](http://www.michigan.gov/aero).

Sincerely,

Michael G. Trout, A.A.E.  
Executive Administrator  
Office of Aeronautics  
Michigan Department of Transportation



## Airport Improvement Program

The Airport Improvement Program (AIP) enables projects to be undertaken at Michigan airports to improve aviation safety, preserve or improve the existing infrastructure, enable purchase of airfield equipment, improve or construct new facilities at airports, and support local economic growth by increasing the capacity of airport facilities. In Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15), \$96,927,663 in AIP contracts were approved by the Michigan Aeronautics Commission. Of that total, \$43,747,716 was transferred to general aviation (GA) airports, while \$53,179,947 was transferred to primary airports. Primary airports are the principal commercial passenger airports serving the traditional airline customers. The total can be further broken down by source of funding into \$78,568,082 in federal funds, \$12,767,511 in locally derived funds, and \$5,592,070 in state aviation funds.

It is augmented by programs utilizing state and local funding only. Funding for AIP is appropriated in Sections 119 and 120, Capital Outlay, of MDOT's FY15 funding legislation, P.A. 252 of 2014. Transfers of the appropriated funds for projects specified in contracts must be approved by the commission. Contract approvals occur throughout the fiscal year at each of the six commission meetings. To the extent Capital Outlay funds appropriated in previous fiscal years are available, the commission may approve contracts using those funds for AIP projects. Contracts to preserve and improve aviation facilities have significant local and regional impacts upon the economies they serve. Three active projects in FY15 provide examples of the important work undertaken through AIP.

### **Jackson County – Reynolds Field (JXN)**

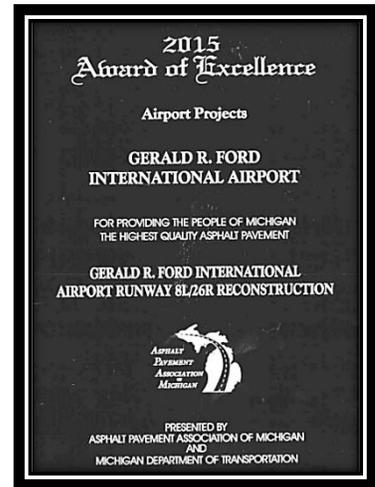
The Jackson County – Reynolds Field is the primary airport for Jackson County and is a GA airport with some cargo operations. It is the airport most used by race teams and the public to access Michigan International Speedway in the Irish Hills. The primary runway does not currently meet FAA standards for runway safety areas and runway protection zones, due to the location of I-94 and the Airport Road Interchange. The airport is going to shift the orientation of the primary runway from 6/24 to 7/25, thereby providing room to enable the runway to meet standards. This project requires a new runway to be



built on the 7/25 orientation, which will have the same 5,300 feet in length as the old runway, but narrowed to 100 feet in width. FY15 AIP grants of \$13.7 million will fund the majority of the construction in 2015 and 2016 (with additional federal funds being committed in FY16). This project will provide support to the economies of the city and county of Jackson. It will provide a safer environment for larger aircraft currently using the airport and will encourage more use, increasing the economic benefit to the area.

**Kent County – Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GRR)**

In FY15, the Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GRR) rehabilitated its parallel runway to continue to serve its large customer base of corporate and general aviation. The Runway 8L/26R Reconstruction Project at GRR has received an Award of Excellence from the Asphalt Paving Association of Michigan. Not only was the runway voted the highest ranking airport project of the year, but it received the highest score of any asphalt project in Michigan for 2015. This is a true testament of all of the hard work and passion that went into the project from the designers to the earthmovers and pavers. In FY15, AIP provided grants of \$4.1 million for the project.



**Battle Creek – W. K. Kellogg Airport (BTL)**

In FY15, the W.K. Kellogg Airport successfully rehabilitated its primary 10,000-foot runway, leaving only the final grooving and marking of the pavement for completion in 2016. This project included AIP grant funding from several sources: federal/state apportionment, federal entitlement, the State Aeronautics Fund, and a large local contribution. In FY15, AIP funds were \$6.3 million. This project will allow the runway to continue to serve its primary customers of Duncan Aviation and the Michigan Air National Guard, as well as other GA interests.



The reports of all contracts approved by the Michigan Aeronautics Commission during FY15 are available at [www.michigan.gov/aero](http://www.michigan.gov/aero) under “QuickLinks,” then select “Michigan Aeronautics Commission,” and then “Contract Approvals.”

## All-Weather Airport Access Program

Aero's All-Weather Airport Access Plan, under the umbrella of the Michigan Airports System Plan, calls for weather observation and data dissemination at each eligible airport in Michigan. This includes three components: (1) Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS); (2) Data Collection System for collection of AWOS data and dissemination to the FAA network; and (3) Access to current weather products available through various means, including a Weather Briefing System.

There are 41 installed AWOS maintained by Aero in cooperation with the local community. Aero has entered into a contract with Mackinac Software to collect the current data and disseminate that data to FAA's national network.

Aero has entered into a contract with Weather Services International (WSI) to provide Weather Briefing Systems at airports in Michigan. Currently, WSI provides access to current weather products through weather briefing terminals or their website to 51 locations in Michigan.



In each community's airport, Aero enters into a contract with the local sponsor that spells out the responsibilities for the shared operation and maintenance of the weather system.

In FY15, the Michigan Aeronautics Commission approved the renewal of two contracts relating to the operation and maintenance of an AWOS, Data Collection System and/or Weather Briefing System. Renewed contracts were approved for the following airports:

- Charlevoix Municipal Airport
- DuPont - Lapeer Airport

In addition, the commission approved a new contract for installation of an AWOS at the following airport:

- West Branch Community Airport

A map of systems maintained by Aero can be viewed [here](#) or go to [www.michigan.gov/aero](http://www.michigan.gov/aero), select "Pilot Resources" and then AWOS under "Featured Services for Pilots."

## Airport Loan Program

The Airport Loan Program allows a publicly owned airport to borrow up to \$100,000 for airport-related projects. Established annually by the Michigan Department of Treasury, the interest rate on the loan is currently at 3.6 percent per annum. Repayment is scheduled in yearly installments over a maximum 10-year period.

Loans are often used by sponsors for their local match obligation in capital improvement projects. However, a loan may not exceed 90 percent of the sponsor’s match of the overall project cost.

In accordance with Section 4 of Public Act 107 of 1969, Airport Development Act, the following provides a report for FY15.

Status of Projects – Information on all currently outstanding loan contracts funded under the program is provided on the chart below. All loans remain in good standing.

Loans Outstanding – At the beginning of FY15, outstanding loans amounted to \$193,317.79. Loan repayments of \$35,265.46 were received. No new loans were disbursed during the fiscal year. At the end of the fiscal year, the outstanding loan balance was \$158,052.33.

Amount Available for New Loans – At the end of the fiscal year, the Airport Loan Program had a balance of \$2,041,047.64.

Status of Active Airport Loan Agreements as of Sept. 30, 2015						
Airport	Loan #	FY	Loan Amount	Amount Disbursed	Amount Repaid	Amount Outstanding
Beaver Island	400000	2013	100,000.00	100,000.00	7,527.11	92,472.89
Menominee	348031	2012	55,000.00	55,000.00	12,743.78	42,256.22
Tuscola Area	298835	2007	100,000.00	100,000.00	76,676.78	23,323.22
<b>Total Loans Outstanding</b>			\$ 255,000.00	\$ 255,000.00	\$ 96,947.67	\$ 158,052.33

During FY15, the Michigan Aeronautics Commission approved two loans to be issued in FY16 for the following airports:

- Hillsdale Municipal Airport in the amount of \$100,000 for the construction of a parallel taxiway to runway 10/28 and a new entrance road.
- South Haven Area Regional Airport in the amount of \$100,000 for the purchase of snow removal equipment.

## Air Service Program

The Michigan Air Service Program was developed in 1987 to address the loss and decline of commercial air service at many Michigan communities. The first state/local grant was issued in 1988. The program helped stabilize and expand commercial air service by undertaking activities aimed at promoting increased use of services available at local airports. The program consists of three categories: airport awareness, capital improvement and equipment, and carrier recruitment and retention.

In FY15, the Michigan Aeronautics Commission approved grants to airport sponsors under the Air Service Program totaling \$291,700 in state funds. The awarded grants were used to fund projects that included airport awareness activities, capital improvement, and/or aircraft rescue and firefighting (ARFF) training for the following airports. All grants require a local funding share.

Alpena County Regional Airport, Alpena  
W.K. Kellogg Airport, Battle Creek  
Willow Run Airport, Detroit  
Delta County Airport, Escanaba  
Bishop International Airport, Flint  
Gerald R. Ford Int'l. Airport, Grand Rapids  
Houghton Co. Mem. Airport, Hancock  
Ford Airport, Iron Mountain/Kingsford  
Gogebic Iron County Airport, Ironwood  
Kalamazoo/Battle Creek Int'l., Kalamazoo

Capital Regional Int'l. Airport, Lansing  
Manistee County – Blacker, Manistee  
Sawyer International, Marquette  
Muskegon County Airport, Muskegon  
Pellston Regional Airport, Pellston  
Oakland Co. Int'l. Airport, Pontiac  
MBS International Airport, Saginaw  
Chippewa Co. Int'l., Sault Ste. Marie  
Cherry Capital Airport, Traverse City



ARFF Training Equipment in use.

# Financial Results

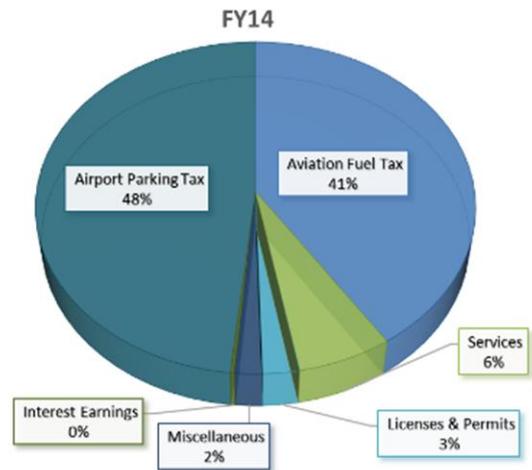
## State Aeronautics Fund

Public Act 252 of 2014 appropriates funds to MDOT for undertaking aviation programs and services during FY15, and appropriations are supported by revenues received during the course of the fiscal year. Capital Outlay awards were identified in the AIP portion of this report and are not shown here. Please note that the Airport Parking Tax revenue is dedicated to payment of debt service costs, with any remaining funds being used solely for AIP.

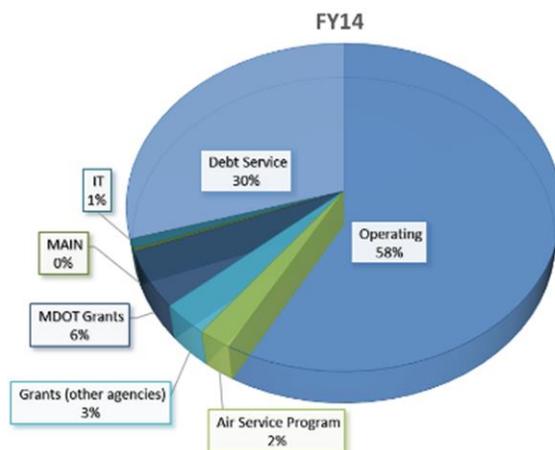
The information depicts revenues and expenditures for FY14 and FY15. The tables detail actual amounts, while the charts enable comparison within and between the two fiscal years shown on this and the following page.

### Fiscal Year 2014

<b>Revenue</b>	
Aviation Fuel Tax	\$ 5,056,196
Services	\$ 788,279
Licenses & Permits	\$ 303,011
Miscellaneous	\$ 229,745
Interest Earnings	\$ 34,702
Airport Parking Tax	\$ 6,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,411,933</b>



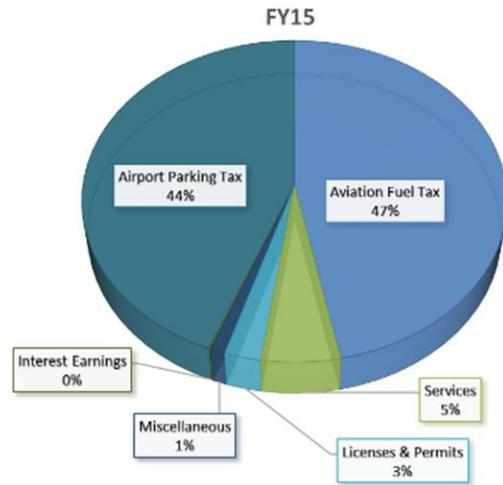
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Operating	\$ 6,584,090
Air Service Program	\$ 257,954
Grants (other agencies)	\$ 362,838
MDOT Grants	\$ 638,848
MAIN	\$ 28,100
IT	\$ 108,647
Debt Service	\$ 3,359,895
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 11,340,372</b>



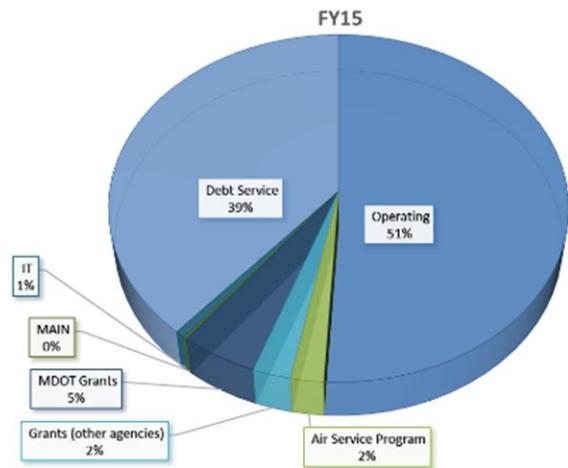
Financial Results – continued

**Fiscal Year 2015**

<b>Revenue</b>	
Aviation Fuel Tax	\$ 6,386,372
Services	\$ 750,137
Licenses & Permits	\$ 344,361
Miscellaneous	\$ 142,561
Interest Earnings	\$ 18,948
Airport Parking Tax	\$ 6,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 13,642,379</b>



<b>Expenditures</b>	
Operating	\$ 6,577,501
Air Service Program	\$ 269,482
Grants (other agencies)	\$ 316,911
MDOT Grants	\$ 644,988
MAIN	\$ 24,600
IT	\$ 86,827
Debt Service	\$ 4,992,110
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,912,419</b>



# Legislation

## Law Enacted

- HB 4468 – Amends P.A. 327 of 1945, Aeronautics Code of the State of Michigan, by adding Chapter VIIA, which allows a local unit of government to establish an airport authority whose sole function would be to own and operate the public-use airport or airports under its jurisdiction. (July 14, 2015, assigned P.A. 95, with immediate effect.)

## Bills Introduced

- HB 4032 – Would regulate transportation network companies (i.e., Uber); to provide for the powers and duties of certain state officers and entities; and to prescribe penalties and provide remedies. (Jan. 15, 2015, introduced and referred to the House Communications and Technology Committee.)
- HB 4244 – Would amend P.A. 451 of 1994, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, and would eliminate liability for landowners for accidents that are a result of aviation activities. (April 21, 2015, passed the House; referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.)
- SB 326 – Would designate the B-24 Liberator as the official state airplane. (Introduced June 12, 2015, referred to the Senate Transportation Committee; July 15, 2015, committee recommended immediate effect and referred to the whole Senate.)
- HB 4727 – Would amend P.A. 259 of 1959, Tall Structure Act, to require meteorological evaluation towers (MET) be marked in accordance with federal standards. (Introduced June 17, 2015, referred to the House Local Government Committee.)
- SB 418 – Would amend section 203 of P.A. 327 of 1945, Aeronautics Code of the State of Michigan. This bill is part of a six-bill package primarily focused on the use of certain state sales and use tax revenue from aviation fuel. A key aspect of the bill package is to address compliance issues arising from the Final Policy Amendment issued by the FAA on Nov. 7, 2014, concerning the use of such revenue. The bill package forms the foundation of the State of Michigan’s “action plan” filed with the FAA.

The substance of SB 418 is that it would clarify that the refund of 1-1/2 cents per gallon available to airline operators demonstrating that they operate interstate on scheduled

operations pertains to the privilege tax imposed under MCL 259.203 at the rate of 3 cents per gallon on all fuel sold or used in producing or generating power for propelling aircraft. (Introduced June 18, 2015, referred to the Senate Commerce Committee.)

- SB 425 and 426 would amend sections 34 and 35 of P.A. 327 of 1945, Aeronautics Code of the State of Michigan, as part of a six-bill package primarily focused on the use of certain state sales and use tax revenue from aviation fuel. The substance of the bills would be to direct portions of the state's 2 percent sales/use tax on aviation fuel to the State Aeronautics Fund and Qualified Airport Fund, respectively. (Introduced July 1, 2015, referred to the Senate Commerce Committee.)
- SB 612, 613 and 614 are also part of the six-bill package primarily focused on the use of certain state sales and use tax revenue from aviation fuel. These bills would amend the Aeronautics Code of the State of Michigan, General Sales Tax Act, and Use Tax Act, by defining a Qualified Airport, establishing reporting and tax distribution requirements, respectively. These bills were introduced in early FY16, and will be detailed in next year's report.

Note: Senate Bills 418, 425, 426, 612, 613 and 614 were approved as a package and signed by the governor on Dec. 23, 2015.

## Statistics

### FY15 Measurements

- Total Contracts Awarded (Airport Sponsor for AIP, Air Service Program, Weather Services and with FAA) – **150**
- Airport Development Projects – **62 projects let**
- Statewide Paint Marking Program – **18 airports**
- Statewide Crack Sealing Program – **11 airports**
- Pavement Condition Index (PCI), Inspections and Reports – **38 airports**
- Tall Structure Reviews – **2,234 applications reviewed, including 384 wind turbines**
- Individual Non-Primary Airport Grant Closeouts – **90 completed**
- Primary Airport Grant Closeouts – **24 completed**
- State Block Grant Closeouts – **5 completed**
- State/Local Grant Closeouts – **10 completed**
- Licensed Public Use Airports – **235**
- Licensed Public Use Heliports – **73**
- Public Use Airport Inspections – **105**
- Public Use Heliport Inspections – **4**
- Hospital Heliport/Helistop Inspections – **18**
- Registered Aircraft – **5,816**
- Dealer Licenses Issued – **144**
- Licensed Flight Schools – **66**
- Flight School Inspections – **36**
- Safety Seminars for Pilots – **24 seminars, approximately 800 total attendees**
- State Aircraft Utilization – **1,124.8 hours**

# Strategic Plan

## Vision

“MDOT will be recognized as a *progressive* and *innovative* agency with an *exceptional workforce* that inspires *public confidence*.”

## Strategic Areas of Focus

Leadership - System Focus – Safety – Partners – Workforce – Customer-Centered

## Wildly Important Goal

Increase MDOT’s Capacity to Innovate

In all areas of the department, achieve a 25 percent improvement in value-addition (in terms of safety measures, cost reduction, increased quality or reduced schedule) by Dec. 31, 2016, through the rapid application of innovative products, processes and technology.

## Office of Aeronautics

### Wildly Important Goals

Update the Michigan Airport System Plan (MASP) to align with MDOT’s current Strategic Plan. The update will incorporate current airport data and federal asset study information, as well as economic impacts of airports on local economies. The focus of the update will be on improving safety and sustaining effective partnerships with airport sponsors. The measure of success will be the approval and endorsement of the MASP update by the Michigan Aeronautics Commission during their meeting in March 2017.

Replace outdated and inefficient flight scheduling software with current web-based technology. This project will reduce staff time and costs by providing staff the ability to remotely schedule and receive flight information and utilize mobile technology. The new web-based application will streamline the flight scheduling process and automate flight notifications for staff and passengers, as well as flight operations reporting. Success will be measured by achieving a 50 percent reduction in staff time required to open and close flight logs and retrieve current flight information.

Replace existing invoice payment process with ProjectWise electronic workflow. The existing paper process utilizes old procedures resulting in lost invoices and lengthy approval processes. The new process will ensure document control and security by incorporating electronic document retention and workflow technologies. This will reduce staff time, paperwork, and streamline payment processing to provide greater customer service. The measure of success will be a 20 percent reduction in time necessary to process payments.

## Education

Pilot Safety Seminars, 24 seminars were held throughout FY15, with approximately 800 people in attendance. Seminar locations were throughout Michigan and included West Branch, Flint, Port Huron, Lapeer, Sault Ste. Marie, Saginaw, Ypsilanti, and Big Rapids.

STEM in Flight Teacher Workshop, held on Oct. 18, 2014, in Lansing, presented by the Michigan Aeronautics Commission's GA Committee and the Square One Education Network. Major sponsors were Western Michigan University and Grand Air Aviation. Teachers from across the state explored how to bring aviation into their classrooms at sessions offered by fellow teachers, EAA chapters, Civil Air Patrol units, science consultants, and others.

Aviation Fuel Distribution Technician Training Seminar, held in October 2014, in Lansing, co-sponsored by AvFuel Corporation and MDOT, 66 airport fixed based operators (FBO) and line service personnel were in attendance.

Great Lake Aviation Conference and Expo, held in January 2015, Lansing Center, featured educational sessions on various topics for pilots, mechanics, and FBOs. Aero staffed a booth and exhibited MI Aviation System Information at the event. Staff also participated in training opportunities.

Michigan Airport Conference, co-hosted by MDOT and the Michigan Association of Airport Executives (MAAE), held on Feb. 18-19, 2015, in East Lansing. The agenda included updates from MDOT and FAA, GA roundtable discussions, and an update on the new AIP Handbook, as well as a session on unmanned aerial systems. A panel discussion on current and future aviation topics was held with the National Association of State Aviation Officials' Greg Principato, the National Business Aviation Association's Dick Doubrava, and the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association's Bryan Budds (pictured left to right).



SimCom Aviation Training, February 2015, MDOT pilots attended professional pilot recurrent training in Orlando, Florida.

MDOT's Youth Development and Mentoring Program, June/July 2015, Aero hosted the mentoring program with the University Region on June 26; the Metro Region on July 15; and the North Region on July 30. This was the sixth consecutive summer Aero has welcomed youth groups into their building for a presentation and tour of the facility. The events kicked off in the auditorium with a presentation on Aero duties and possible careers in aviation. Students and mentors took a tour of the facility. In addition to seeing and learning about MDOT's aircraft fleet, students were able to see a Michigan State Police helicopter and Lansing's Capital Region International Airport crash rescue truck up close. Each student had the opportunity to ask questions of the pilots and public safety officer. Participants also took a tour of the airport control tower. The three regions totaled more than 220 students this year.

EAA AirVenture, held in July 2015, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Aero staff participated and had a booth set up for the week to promote aviation in Michigan. This annual event hosts more than 500,000 attendees from around the world.

Michigan Association of Airport Executives Fall Conference was held Sept. 14-18, 2015, in Thompsonville. The agenda included legislative updates, roundtable sessions, unmanned aerial systems, wildlife management techniques, GA revenue, Michigan Tall Structures Act, and much more. The Michigan Aeronautics Commission meeting was held in conjunction with the conference.

Yankee Ladies Chapter of Women in Aviation Workshop, was held in September 2015, in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Aero staff attended and participated by presenting safety information.

## Notable Events/Recognitions

### Events

Willow Run Airport, Detroit, held special events on Oct. 30, 2014, which included the rededication of Runway 5R/23L; a B-17 Yankee Lady inaugural new runway takeoff; a Yankee Air Museum purchase ceremony; recognition to the Save the Bomber Plant Campaign; and a special announcement of renaming the museum the “National Museum of Aviation and Technology at Historic Willow Run.”

Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids, held ribbon-cuttings on Jan. 28, 2015, to celebrate their newly expanded Concourse B, and on Sept. 30, 2015, in dedication to their storm water and deicing program improvements.

Air Transportation Expo, held on Sept. 25, 2015, at Oakland County International Airport, Pontiac. Oakland County partnered with MBAA, MDOT, FBOs, and original equipment manufacturers. Thousands of invitations were mailed to businesses and corporations throughout southeast Michigan to learn what advantages and opportunities aviation can provide for their businesses. Roughly 400 people attended, approximately \$300 million worth of aircraft was on display, and several breakout sessions were held.

### Recognitions

Bill Gehman, former deputy director of MDOT’s Bureau of Aeronautics and director of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission, was elected to MDOT’s Hall of Honor. The Hall of Honor is a permanent display in the Murray D. Van Wagoner Transportation Building in Lansing. It was established in 1971 to honor individuals who have made outstanding contributions to transportation in Michigan. Mr. Gehman was one of six inducted during a luncheon ceremony on Nov. 12, 2014.

Carol Aldrich and Betsy Steudle, Project Management supervisor and Grants and Contracts supervisor, received the President’s Award for Aviation at the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials annual meeting in North Carolina on Nov. 23, 2014. Both were honored for their part in developing and implementing the AeroPM software application, now being used as the primary program management tracking system for statewide airport projects.



Carol Aldrich, Kelly Badra, Neal Barncard, Jennifer Forbes, Mark Grennell, Steve Houtteman, Chip Kraus, Betsy Steudle, Anu Taneja, and Juan Zapata each received a Simply Super Service Award in March 2015 for their dedication in the completion of projects at Ray

Community Airport. The projects included preservation of a main runway, installation of a new energy efficient rotating beacon, reconstruction of a taxiway, and other projects.

Airport of the Year and Consultant of the Year Awards were announced at the Michigan Airports Conference in February. The Airport of the Year award was presented to the Chippewa County International Airport in recognition of excellence in service provided to the aviation community through the development of numerous airport infrastructure projects. The Consultant of the Year award was presented to Applied Pavement Technology, Inc. in recognition of engineering excellence provided to aviation in the performance of airfield pavement evaluations and development of cost-effective pavement management programs.

Randy Coller, Aero’s aviation inspection and compliance manager, was honored by MAAE during their annual fall conference in September. Mr. Coller was recognized for his dedicated service to the aviation industry and support of MAAE.

Awards of Excellence were announced during the Michigan Aeronautics Commission meeting in September, with the group award presented to the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station in Traverse City in recognition of outstanding service and dedication to the protection of Michigan citizens. The individual award went to Pete Butchko, U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, in recognition for his leadership and dedication to Michigan airports in the identification, management, and reduction of wildlife hazards to aviation.

## Other Notables

Scott Heather, Commissioner, (designee for DNR), retired effective Jan. 1, 2015. Kevin Jacobs, pilot, appointed by director Keith Creagh as new designee.

Dave VanderVeen and Pete Kamarainen, commissioners, reappointed by Gov. Snyder for a second four-year term, expiring May 27, 2019.

Capt. Mike Caldwell, commissioner, (designee for MSP), resigned from the commission effective July 22, 2015, due to new responsibilities. Capt. Joe Gasper appointed by Col. Kriste Etue as new designee.

Rick Fiddler and Russ Kavalhuna, at the September Michigan Aeronautics Commission meeting, were elected as chairman and vice chairman for the 2015-2016 term, replacing Roger Salo and Rick Fiddler as chairman and vice chairman, respectively.

Former Chairman Roger Salo was presented a plaque from Commission Director Mike Trout commending him for an outstanding year (pictured from left to right).

