



New Orleans Airport Director Named Champion of New Orleans Tourism

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May 11, 2012 – The New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) has named Iftikhar Ahmad, Director of Aviation of Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport a “Champion of New Orleans Tourism”. Mr. Ahmad was honored at the tourism industry’s most important annual gathering, the New Orleans CVB’s National Travel and Tourism Week Business Expo & Luncheon, held on Thursday, May 10, 2012 at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans. Every year in mid-May, the New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau, along with major tourism partners, join cities across the United States to celebrate the industry event that was begun in 1984. The New Orleans Convention & Visitors Bureau is a nationally accredited, 1,000-member destination marketing organization and the largest and most successful private economic development corporation in Louisiana.

“On behalf of the New Orleans Aviation Board, we want to congratulate Mr. Ahmad on this honor,” said New Orleans Aviation Board Chairman Nolan V. Rollins. “He is effectively leading his airport team in establishing our historic landmark as a wonderful first impression for the tourists that visit our great city. In his role as the Director of Aviation, he is indeed a Champion of New Orleans Tourism.”

Mr. Ahmad assumed the position of Director of Aviation at Armstrong International in May 2010. He is presently overseeing the \$356 million modernization of the airport scheduled for completion by the 2013 Super Bowl in New Orleans. Mr. Ahmad is a seasoned professional in the field of Aviation Management having served as Director of Aviation for the City of Dayton, Ohio, Vice President of the Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority and various management roles with the Houston Airport System.

Tourism is a vital economic engine for the City of New Orleans. It generates \$5 billion in economic impact annually and welcomed 8.75 million visitors in 2011. The Airport is a crucial partner in the New Orleans tourism industry. Last year, Armstrong International Airport reported over 8.5 million passengers traveled through it. The Airport serves as a front door to the Greater New Orleans Metro area for the millions of visiting tourists from around the world.

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For further information on Armstrong International Airport visit the Airport website, www.flymsy.com and follow the Airport on Facebook and Twitter.