

Session 1 - FAA Update and Q&A



Melissa Cooper, A.A.E.

Manager

Charles B. Wheeler Downtown Airport

(Moderator)

Melissa Cooper, A.A.E, has served as the Manager of the Charles B. Wheeler Downtown Airport since March 2017. Prior to her current position, she was the Field Maintenance at Kansas City International Airport, Deputy Director of the Johnson County Airport Commission serving as the Airport Manager for New Century Air Center and Johnson County Executive Airport and the Assistant Airport Manager at Charles B. Wheeler Downtown Airport in Kansas City, Missouri. Prior to her positions in Airport Management, she worked as a Contractor with the FAA Central Region Runway Safety Program, as a System Controller for Vanguard Airlines, and a scheduler for Executive Beechcraft. Melissa holds her commercial pilot certificate with an instrument rating. She has a MS degree in aviation safety and a BS degree in aviation technology both from University of Central Missouri. Melissa currently serves as a member of the Bombardier Safety Standdown Advisory Council, the 1st Vice President for the Great Lakes AAAE Chapter and the Past-President of the Missouri Airport Managers Association.

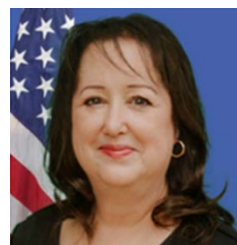


Dominika Drozdal

Senior Advisor to the Great Lakes Regional Administrator

FAA

Dominika Drozdal is the Senior Advisor to the FAA Office of the Great Lakes Regional Administrator. She works on a variety of cross-organizational aviation matters impacting the eight states of the Great Lakes Region: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Most recently, Dominika served as a project manager for the Chicago Area Modernization Program Office, where she oversaw the FAA activities that contributed to the O'Hare Modernization Program. Prior to that, she managed the design and implementation of engineering projects throughout the Great Lakes and Kansas City areas. Dominika graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a degree in Electrical Engineering and joined the FAA in 2001.



Debra Sanning

Acting Central Region Deputy Administrator

FAA

Debra Sanning is the Acting Deputy Regional Administrator for FAA's Central Region in Kansas City, Missouri. Most recently, Ms. Sanning has served as the Senior Advisor to the FAA Office of the Regional

Administrator, working on a variety of cross organizational matters and initiatives directly with aviation stakeholders, airport authorities, and congressional members in the four states of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.

Ms. Sanning began her career with FAA as a contract Senior Realty Specialist in the Logistics Division, in 1989, procuring land, space and services for a variety of emerging FAA projects. As a licensed and accredited realtor, specializing in new construction and property management, Ms. Sanning was successful in moving several high value projects to completion. In 2001, following the 9/11 tragedy, Debra was selected as the Facility Manager of FAA's multi-tenant regional headquarters. In addition to daily operations, construction moves, changes and oversight, Ms. Sanning was successful in building emergency response processes, an operational security program and communications plans with the Agency, local, state and federal partners.

Prior to her career with FAA, Debra specialized in geriatric nursing, later adding credentials and training in emergency planning, safety and security programs. While working for the American Nurses' Association in Kansas City, the Hyatt Regency walkway collapsed in 1981, further magnifying the desire for advanced training in public safety. The exposure to this tragic event has led to numerous opportunities to learn from first responders in many areas including Oklahoma City, and New York City, along with local and national emergency management officials.