



## NEWS RELEASE 20-10

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### **SOUTHWEST FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT RECEIVES 2020 INCLUSION CHAMPION AWARD**

FORT MYERS, Fla. (Sept. 16, 2020) – Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW) was awarded the 2020 Inclusion Champion Award for a medium-hub airport by the Airports Council International-North America (ACI-NA). This ACI-NA award recognizes one small, medium and large commercial airport and an associate member that demonstrates leadership and achievement in the inclusion of new diverse business, workforce diversity and advocacy/outreach, as well as a commitment to diversity in aviation.

“I am so pleased that Southwest Florida International Airport has been recognized for its commitment to diversity in its business, workforce and outreach practices,” said Ben Siegel, CPA, C.M., acting executive director of the Lee County Port Authority. “Our team continues to work hard to bring positive solutions and proactive engagement of inclusion with the companies we do business with, our employees and the community we serve.”

The Lee County Port Authority, operator of Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW) and Page Field (FMY) in Fort Myers, Fla., has dedicated itself to promoting the full participation of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs), Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (ACDBEs) and Woman and Minority-owned Small Business Enterprises (W/MBEs). LCPA hosted or co-sponsored more than 60 events in the past five years, reaching an audience of more than 12,000 small, women and minority-owned businesses. In the same timeframe, the Port Authority exceeded its DBE participation by an average of 10 percent each year. In addition, LCPA designed an Inclusions Program to improve workplace practices and developed several employee empowerment and educational programs.

Airports Council International-North America (ACI-NA) represents local, regional and state governing bodies that own and operate commercial airports in the United States and Canada. As the Voice of Airports, its mission is to advocate policies and provide services that strengthen commercial airports’ ability to serve their passengers, customers and community through cooperation, encourage the exchange of ideas, identify and disseminate industry trends and practices and create a network of airport professionals and service providers. For more information, please visit [www.airportscouncil.org](http://www.airportscouncil.org).

Southwest Florida International Airport served more than 10.2 million passengers in 2019 and is one of the top 50 U.S. airports for passenger traffic. No ad valorem (property) taxes are used for airport operations or construction. For more information, visit [www.flylcpa.com](http://www.flylcpa.com) or Like Us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/flyRSW](https://www.facebook.com/flyRSW).