

## *News Update From*



*Why drive when it's so easy to fly!*

### **April 2010 News**

#### **Delta commits to Columbia Regional Airport with no federal subsidy**

The City of Columbia has received word that Delta Air Lines will continue providing air service through Columbia Regional, and effective September 2010 will no longer require a subsidy through the Essential Air Service (EAS)



program. Delta's current air service contract with Columbia Regional Airport runs through August 2010.

On March 30, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) issued an order terminating the carrier selection process for Columbia Regional Airport's EAS contract for the period of September 2010 through August 2012, and named Delta Air Lines as the commercial carrier that will provide subsidy-free Essential Air Service (EAS) at Columbia Regional. This decision followed Delta's recent announcement that they would be upgrading their aircraft from a 34-seat turboprop to a 50-seat regional jet on all flights at Columbia Regional.

With the current EAS contract scheduled to expire at the end of August 2010, the DOT had requested proposals from carriers interested in providing Essential Air Service (EAS) at Columbia Regional for the next two-year period. Shortly after the request for

proposals was issued, the DOT received an e-mail from Delta Air Lines' Network Planning office stating, "With respect to the [Columbia/ Jefferson City] EAS upcoming bid request, Delta will continue to offer the minimum required service, but due to the success of this route, we will not be requiring any subsidy amount. The airport, county, and local community has done a great job on promoting our service and we are pleased with the community's response in our air service." Therefore, effective September 1, 2010, Delta Air Lines will be serving the mid-Missouri market with subsidy-free air service.

"This is a really big deal", said City Manager Bill Watkins. "It means that Delta has enough confidence in the business generated at the Airport that it is willing to operate without a public subsidy. The region's support for the Airport has created a very favorable outcome, and now we have certainty about who will provide our air service," said Watkins.

This announcement is a direct result of the success of, and the support mid-Missouri has given to Delta since August 2008 when they began service at Columbia Regional. The number of passengers for the last three months of service were reported as: January- 1,755 passengers; February - 2,014 passengers and March 2,729 passengers. 2009 saw a total of 24,843 passengers through Columbia Regional.

For more information about flying from Columbia Regional Airport, log onto the airport's website at [www.FlyMidMo.com](http://www.FlyMidMo.com) or call 573-874-7508.

## Lobby gets new look

**We are so excited to show off our new furniture. If you haven't been to the Airport lately, you will see a new look in our lobby. Come and see it for yourself!**



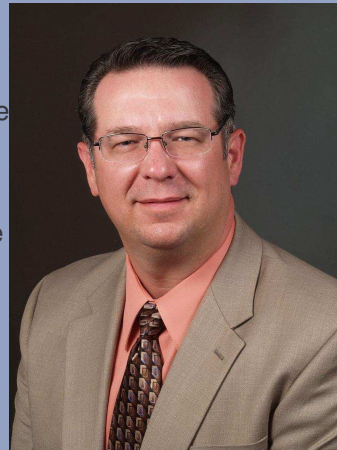
## And the winners are.....

Congratulations to **Rich Gehrke**, Vice President of Marketing for Pinnacle Health Group and **Amanda Burfield**, Event Coordinator for Stephens College. Amanda and Rich stopped by our booth at the Columbia Business Showcase on April 6; they each won a voucher good toward their next flight out of Columbia Regional Airport with Delta Air Lines. Congratulations to Amanda and Rich.

## Paul Toler supports Columbia Regional

"Thousands of MU students, faculty and staff have discovered the value of flying from Columbia Regional Airport. With free parking, the ability to access economical and reliable air service so close to home, and the convenience of going through security quickly and only once, it saves them time and the University money. Therefore, when traveling on behalf of the University, we encourage each traveler to check Columbia Regional Airport first when making travel plans from the mid-Missouri area."

**Paul W. Toler, CGFM**  
**Director of Business Services with MU**



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Remember the airline check-in policy

Please arrive **ONE HOUR** before your scheduled flight to ensure all flight arrangements and security measures are complete. **The ticket counter closes 30 minutes prior to departure** and the airline will not issue boarding passes or check baggage less than 30 minutes prior to departure.



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