

# 2026 BUSINESS of AIRPORTS

June 22 - 24, 2026 // Salt Lake City, UT



## 2026 Business of Airports Conference Moderator Bio Book

**Monday, June 22, 2026**

### **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

**Brian Butler**, *Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Dallas Fort Worth International Airport; 2026 Chair, ACI-NA Finance Committee*



Brian Butler is the Executive Vice President/Chief Financial Officer at the DFW Airport. He received his Bachelors degree in Corporate Finance from Brigham Young University, an additional Bachelors degree in Accounting from Utah Valley University, and a Masters of Accountancy from the University of Utah. Brian is a CPA and belongs to both the Utah Association of Certified Public Accounts as well as the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. In addition he has received his Accredited Account Executive (A.A.E.) from the American Association of Airport Executives.

Brian was the CFO at SLC for over 10 years prior to accepting his current role as EVP/CFO of the DFW Airport. At DFW he is responsible for overseeing Finance, Treasury, Procurement, Air Service Development, as well Airline Commercial Real Estate.

## Strategic Planning and Performance Management Working Group

**Ronda Chu**, *Chief Financial Officer, San Francisco International Airport*



Ronda Chu is the Chief Financial Officer at San Francisco International Airport (SFO), operated by the Airport Commission of the City and County of San Francisco. She leads the airport's financial operations, with a focus on long-term stability and growth. Her leadership spans strategic planning, budgeting, financial systems & reporting, financial planning & analysis, revenue management, capital financing, procurement and risk management.

She brings over 25 years of experience in municipal finance, with a background that spans both advisory and issuer roles.

Ms. Chu holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and a Master of Science in Financial Economics. She is currently a member of the Airport Council International-North America (ACI-NA) Finance Committee and serves as Chair of the Strategic Planning and Performance Management Working Group.

## Accounting and Financing Working Group

**Brandy James**, *Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Charleston Regional Aviation Authority*



Brandy James is an experienced financial professional with more than 20 years of experience. She currently serves as the Chief Financial Officer at the Charleston International Airport. In this role she oversees Finance, Procurement, Properties and Diversity Business Enterprise operations. Prior to this position Ms. James served as the Chief Financial Officer at the Richland County Recreation Commission where she oversaw Finance and Procurement operations. Prior to Richland County Recreation Commission, Brandy served as Senior Analyst, Senior Accountant, and Senior Auditor at SCANNA, a regulated electric and natural gas public utility. Brandy also worked as a Senior Financial Analyst at BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina and served as staff accountant at Moore Kirkland & Beauston, LLP. Brandy is a Certified Public Accountant and holds a Master of Science in Accountancy and BS in Accounting— both degrees are from the College of Charleston.

## Airport Business Working Group

**Tony Conza**, *Vice President, Finance, Tampa International Airport*



Tony Conza is the Vice President of Finance for Hillsborough County Aviation Authority (TPA). Tony has progressively taken on additional responsibilities since joining the Authority as a Sr. Commercial Analyst in 2011. Tony is a graduate of the University of Florida and has received his Certified Member designation by AAAE. Tony was recently recognized as a 40 under 40 Honoree by the Tampa Bay Business Journal and is an active member of ACI's Finance Steering Committee as Working Group chair of the Airport Business Working Group.

## Financial Regulations and Policy Working Group

**Chris Wimsatt**, *Chief Financial Officer, Port of Seattle*



Chris joined the Port of Seattle as Chief Financial Officer in 2025. As CFO, Chris oversees financial planning, strategy, and risk management for Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and the Seattle Seaport.

Prior to joining the Port of Seattle, Chris worked as Assistant Director of Airports as well as Chief Financial Officer for the Sacramento County Airport System since 2021, and as Chief Financial Officer for the Dayton Department of Aviation since 2019.

Chris has a BA in Political Science, an MBA, and is a Certified Member of the American Association of Airport Executives.

## Finance Committee Meeting

**Brian Butler**, *Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Dallas Fort Worth International Airport; 2026 Chair, ACI-NA Finance Committee*



Brian Butler is the Executive Vice President/Chief Financial Officer at the DFW Airport. He received his Bachelors degree in Corporate Finance from Brigham Young University, an additional Bachelors degree in Accounting from Utah Valley University, and a Masters of Accountancy from the University of Utah. Brian is a CPA and belongs to both the Utah Association of Certified Public Accounts as well as the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. In addition he has received his Accredited Account Executive (A.A.E.) from the American Association of Airport Executives.

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## Tuesday, June 23, 2026

### Getting Concessions Procurement Right: Best Practices and New Approaches

**Eric Friedman**, *Associate, Global Aviation Commercial Advisory, ICF*



Eric received his BS from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and began his career as concessions manager with the New Orleans Aviation Board. Over 12 years, he led the redevelopment of the commercial program, which became the third highest grossing in North America (by SEP) and received industry recognition.

Eric has more than three years of commercial planning experience with ICF, supporting commercial development at airports including Minneapolis, St. Louis, Austin, and San Diego. He enjoys demonstrating the art and science of concessions planning to his clients and helping innovate along the way.

## From Spreadsheets to Scale: Modernizing Airport Finance Operations

**Bryan Benefiel**, *Deputy General Manager & Chief Financial Officer*, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport



Bryan Benefiel is the chief financial officer and deputy general manager of Hartsfield-Jackson. In his role, he oversees more than 100 employees in eight units including capital finance, financial planning & analysis, risk management, revenue, budget and IT. A certified public accountant, he monitors ATL's nearly \$1 billion annual budget and oversees the financing needs for ATLNext, the Airport's multibillion-dollar capital improvement program.

Mr. Benefiel has more than 20 years of experience in finance and accounting roles, with experience in the public and private sectors. His experience includes strategic planning, financial planning and analysis, financial reporting, budgeting, capital finance and business process improvement.

Mr. Benefiel joined the Airport in 2012 as the director of financial planning and analysis. He was promoted to assistant general manager of finance and accounting in early 2019. Prior to joining the Airport, he served as director of general accounting for the City of Atlanta's finance department. In this role, he was a key player in the financial and business process improvements improving the City's financial strength. Prior to joining the City, Mr. Benefiel served as the director of accounting for the American Cancer Society.

As the recipient of several financial and airport certifications, Mr. Benefiel is a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Management Accountant, and Certified Financial Manager. In the airport industry, he is a Certified Member of the American Association of Airport Executives and earned the International Airport Professional designation, a professional designation of Airports Council International and the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Mr. Benefiel earned a Bachelor of Science in accounting from the University of Central Oklahoma.

## Beyond the Bond: Exploring Alternative Financing Structures for Airport Capital Projects

**Sheri Ernico**, *Principal*, Jacobs



Sheri Ernico has over 35 years of experience in airport financial and economic analysis, including strategic financial planning, capital program development, financial feasibility studies (for general airport revenue bonds and CFC standalone bonds), rates and charges analyses, airline lease negotiations, airline MII ballots, PFC applications and programs, benefit/cost analyses, letters of intent, grant applications (AIP, LOI, IJJA ATP), rental car financing, rental car agreement negotiations, CFC program implementation and management, privatization assessments and analyses, governance reviews, fuel system business planning, market analyses, and forecasts of aviation demand. She also served as the Finance Director for San Francisco International Airport.

**Wednesday, June 24, 2026**

## **Airport Finance Roundtable by Hub Size**

### Large Hub Airport Finance Roundtable

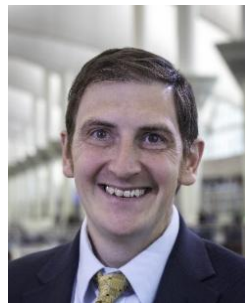
**Shaun Anderson**, *Airport Controller, Salt Lake City International Airport*



Shaun Anderson is the Airport Controller for the Salt Lake City Department of Airports (SLCDA). In this position, Shaun oversees the annual audit process, all financial reporting, and supervises accounts payable operations. He has been a key contributor in the issuance of over \$3 billion in capital market financing and works with federal funding and GASB implementation.

Prior to his tenure at SLCDA, Shaun was an auditor at Eide Bailly LLP. He holds both a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting and a Master of Accountancy from Utah State University. He is a licensed Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Member (C.M.) of the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE).

**Michael Biel**, *Chief Financial Officer, Denver International Airport*



Michael Biel is the CFO at DEN and has been with the organization since June 2017. Under this role, he oversees the DEN finances including business technologies, accounting, financial planning, internal audit and travel administration. Currently, his team is executing on the new expanded and extended capital improvement program. Previously at DEN, Michael served as the Deputy CFO and Senior Vice President of Financial Accounting. Prior to joining DEN, he was at Harry Reid International Airport in Las Vegas, in a similar role. Prior to joining Harry Reid International, he spent about 20 years with CPA firms in Las Vegas and Mobile, Alabama.

### Medium Hub Airport Finance Roundtable

**Dave Amdor**, *Deputy Executive Director & Chief Financial Officer, Southwest Florida International Airport*



Dave Amdor, CPA, C.M. is the Deputy Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for the Lee County Port Authority, operator of Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW) and Page Field (FMY) in Fort Myers, Florida. Amdor is responsible for overseeing the areas of finance, budgeting, procurement and the Capital Improvement Program.

He joined LCPA in 2020, as the director of finance, responsible for all financial and accounting functions. Amdor came to the Lee County Port Authority with more than 12 years of public and private accounting and finance experience. Previously, he worked in various finance roles for the Omaha Airport Authority, responsible for operating Eppley Field (OMA) in Nebraska. He started his career as an auditor at Deloitte & Touche, L.L.P.

Amdor has a Master of Business Administration and a bachelor's degree in accounting from Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois.

**Brandy James**, *Chief Financial Officer, Charleston Regional Aviation Authority*



Brandy James is an experienced financial professional with more than 20 years of experience. She currently serves as the Chief Financial Officer at the Charleston International Airport. In this role she oversees Finance, Procurement, Properties and Diversity Business Enterprise operations. Prior to this position Ms. James served as the Chief Financial Officer at the Richland County Recreation Commission where she oversaw Finance and Procurement operations. Prior to Richland County Recreation Commission, Brandy served as Senior Analyst, Senior Accountant, and Senior Auditor at SCANNA, a regulated electric and natural gas public utility. Brandy also worked as a Senior Financial Analyst at BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina and served as staff accountant at Moore Kirkland & Beuston, LLP. Brandy is a Certified Public Accountant and holds a Master of Science in Accountancy and BS in Accounting— both degrees are from the College of Charleston.

**Small/Non-Hub Airport Finance Roundtable**

**Marsha Johnson**, *Deputy Director, Airport Finance and Administration, Tallahassee International Airport*



Marsha Johnson serves as Deputy Director of Airport Finance and Administration at Tallahassee International Airport, a role she has held since March 2020. With over 35 years of experience spanning the public and private sectors, Ms. Johnson brings a wealth of expertise in strategic finance, business analysis, debt management, and financial accounting.

Her career began at KPMG before transitioning to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), where she held several key positions. After more than three decades of service, she retired from FDOT and assumed her current role at Tallahassee International Airport.

Ms. Johnson holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from the University of Texas at Austin and is a licensed Certified Public Accountant. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

She enjoys volunteering and spending time with her family.

**Rob Schultz**, *Chief Financial Officer, Spokane International Airport*



Rob Schultz is the Chief Financial Officer for the Spokane Airport Board, who owns and operates Spokane International Airport, Felts Field and the Airport Business Park. Spokane International Airport is a small hub airport that served over 4 million passengers in 2023. Rob has been in the aviation and transportation sectors for 16 years. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Hope College and a Master of Business Administration in Finance and Strategic Management from the Carlson School of Management at University of Minnesota.

## AI Without the Hype: Practical Tech Solutions for Supplier Programs

**Odette Oppe**, *Administration and Finance Compliance Officer, Eugene Airport*



Odette Oppe grew up in the Philippines and earned her Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from the University of Santo Tomas in Manila. She began her career as a database programmer before moving to Vancouver, BC, in 2003. After meeting her husband, she moved to the United States in 2009 and has since lived in Texas, Washington, and Oregon. Odette currently serves as the Administration & Financial Compliance Manager for the City of Eugene at the Eugene Airport, where she oversees daily financial operations and ensures compliance with local, state, federal, and grant regulations. Before joining the airport, she worked in the City of Eugene's Planning and Development Department as part of the Housing Team, managing Housing and Urban Development grants. With family and friends spread across the globe, Odette enjoys visiting loved ones and exploring new places, embracing opportunities to connect and discover the world.

## Roundtable with Airlines

**Dr. Michael Garnier**, *Finance & Administration, Ricondo*



Michael Garnier is a Director with Ricondo & Associates and brings more than 25 years of aviation industry experience spanning airport finance, airline-airport business strategy, and major capital development programs. He has held executive leadership roles in both airline and airport environments and specializes in airport-airline negotiations, financial strategy, and infrastructure funding.

**Sarah Wilbanks**, *Partner, Kaplan Kirsch LLP*



Sarah concentrates her practice on representing airport clients on a wide range of issues arising under federal law that touch on sponsors' regulatory, transactional, and litigation requirements. She has significant experience negotiating and drafting airline use and lease agreements and advising clients on rates and charges issues. Sarah represents sponsors in airport development and transactional matters, including airport service providers, concessions, and construction agreements. Prior to joining Kaplan Kirsch, Sarah served as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago Department of Law, where she represented the City in matters involving Chicago O'Hare International and Midway International Airports.

## CFO and HR Roundtable

**Monty Bell**, *Head of Human Resources, San Diego County Regional Airport Authority*



Monty Bell serves as the Head of Human Resources for the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority, operator of San Diego International Airport. Reporting directly to the Chief Executive Officer, he leads a high-performing team responsible for strategic human capital initiatives, including talent management, workforce planning, organizational development, performance management, total rewards, employee and labor relations, HR technology and analytics, compliance, safety, and inclusive culture strategies.

With more than 25 years of executive leadership experience, including 15 years in CFO and COO roles, Monty brings a unique blend of expertise in human resources, finance, operations, and risk management. He serves as liaison to the Executive Personnel and Compensation Committee, Chair of the Airport's Deferred Compensation Committee, and Chief Negotiator for labor representation.

Monty holds the SPHR-CA, SHRM-SCP, CCP, and Certified Risk Manager (CRM) credentials and serves as Chair of the Airports Council International–North America Human Resources Steering Group.