



PhxMesa **Gateway** Airport

Media Contact: Brian Sexton (480) 988-7618
bsexton@phxmesagateway.org

FOR RELEASE
January 4, 2010



Media Contact: Steven Wright (480) 644-2069
steven.wright@mesaaz.gov

Gateway Airport Celebrates One Million Total Passengers *Milestone comes two years after scheduled service begins*

Mesa, Ariz. –Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport Authority (PMGAA), Allegiant Air, and the Mesa Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) celebrated the arrival of the ceremonial one millionth passenger with cheers, entertainment, and random prize drawings.

Passengers awaiting their departures in the outdoor courtyard were treated to a comic routine by the Valley's own Mark Cordes, musical entertainment by The Howdy Show of Mesa's Rockin' R Ranch, ceremonial desserts and random prize drawings from the Mesa CVB.

“To advance to one million passengers in just two years is a major accomplishment,” Queen Creek Mayor and PMGAA Board Chair Art Sanders said. “Congratulations to Allegiant Air for their success and congratulations to Arizona residents for proving that commercial service at Gateway can be successful. This truly is a win for all of Arizona as survey results indicate 26 percent of out-of-state visitors would not have come to Arizona if it were not for Allegiant Air's service.”

Scheduled service began in October 2007 with two aircraft serving eight cities. Today, Allegiant serves 20 cities with five aircraft and Airport officials prepare to welcome more than 650,000 more passengers in 2010.

“We're not finished growing,” Mesa Mayor Scott Smith and Gateway Board Director said. “Allegiant Air has outgrown the existing 35,000 square-foot terminal. Construction has already begun on an FAA funded \$8.9 million expansion project to add an additional 25,000 square-feet of space and two more boarding gates. Ten years from now, we can expect Gateway to accommodate as much as 10 percent of the Valley's total airline passenger service.”

The City of Mesa and the Airport Authority have recently partnered in financing a planning study to look into the scope of work needed to construct a long-term passenger terminal on the east side of the airport with freeway access.

In addition to welcoming the one millionth passenger, another milestone was reached today with the entire opening of Taxiway Bravo. The parallel taxiway, which runs the full length of Gateway's 10,400 foot runway, was built in four phases starting in late 2005. It will increase airfield efficiency and safety as air traffic controllers can now move aircraft to and from the runway system easier and faster.

-more-

About Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport

The Airport was established in 1994 and is owned and operated by the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport Authority, which consists of the Gila River Indian Community, Gilbert, Mesa, Phoenix, and Queen Creek. Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport offers non-stop passenger service via Allegiant Air with flights to 20 cities nationwide. For more information, visit www.phxmesagateway.org.