

Chief Executive Officer

Candace McGraw is an aviation professional with more than 30 years of operational and legal expertise who has led the transformation of a deteriorating business into a thriving airport, which has been recognized by SkyTrax in 2020 as the second-best airport in the world serving between five and 10 million passengers and the “Best Regional Airport in North America” for seven of the last nine years.

Since becoming CEO of the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG) in 2011, Candace designed and executed a comprehensive turnaround strategy that reversed nine consecutive years of passenger decline, turning CVG into one of the fastest growing airports for both passenger and cargo traffic in the U.S.

Between 2015 and 2019, passenger volumes increased 45%. Even outside of the COVID-19 pandemic, CVG’s average airfares had been declining, but they reached a 25-year low in Q3 of 2020. For the 12 months ending in February 2021, cargo volume surpassed 1.5 million tons—an historic first for the airport.

Candace is proud to lead a team that has positioned the airport for continued future success by navigating a once-in-a-generation pandemic with serious impacts to the airport industry; completing a 2050 Master Plan Study; consolidating operations into a renovated terminal; diversifying revenues through targeted cargo, land, and concessions improvements; finalizing modernized Use Agreements with air carriers; introducing low-cost air carriers to the airport; and growing startup businesses to support the airport ecosystem and Cincinnati region.

The Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport has been positioned to become the epicenter of e-commerce for the United States. Currently the 7th largest cargo operation in North America, CVG is home to the Amazon Air cargo hub, with its \$1.5 billion facility under construction, as well as DHL’s Global Super Hub for the Americas, its second largest operation in the world.

Candace is a globally-recognized leader in the airport industry, serving as immediate past chair of Airports Council International-North America (ACI-NA), a trade association representing 400+ airports in the U.S. and Canada. She also serves as Treasurer on the World Board of Airports Council International, which represents 90% of all commercial airports throughout the world. Candace was appointed by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation to serve on two federal boards: the Women in Aviation Advisory Board and the NextGen Advisory Committee, charged with providing counsel and recommendations to the Federal Aviation Administration as to operational capabilities and technology that affect the future of the national air traffic system.

In addition to serving on a number of local and state boards, Candace was appointed to the Kentucky Economic Development Partnership Board to oversee the strategic plan and goals for the Commonwealth’s Cabinet for Economic Development. She also serves on the Advisory Board for Fifth Third Bank.

Candace is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and holds a bachelor’s and master’s degree from Duquesne University.

