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# News Release

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## Wayne County Airport Authority's Gale LaRoche Honored by American Society of Employers

*--LaRoche named HR Executive of the Year at ceremony held at  
the Detroit Athletic Club*

**DETROIT, (November 6, 2014)**—Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA) Vice President of Human Resources Gale LaRoche was named a 2014 Michigan Human Resources Executive of the Year, yesterday evening at the Detroit Athletic Club by the American Society of Employers (ASE). ASE is one the nation's largest and oldest employer associations with over 800 member firms in Michigan. WCAA operates Detroit Metropolitan and Willow Run Airports.

ASE honored LaRoche in the "*Organizations with fewer than 1,000 Michigan employees*" category. LaRoche was one of four Human Resource Executives recognized for being the best within their profession.

"Gale is a committed HR professional and a dedicated member of our Airport Authority senior leadership team," said Airport Authority CEO Thomas Naughton. "She is passionate about employee development, and has worked diligently to advance several strategic initiatives designed to promote a performance-minded culture for both airport management and front line employees."

LaRoche's accomplishments highlighted at the ceremony included: the successful implementation of an authority-wide *integrated learning management system* so that learning, performance and succession planning are not separate processes, but tools that support ongoing employee development and the continued success for the Airport Authority. LaRoche was also recognized for introducing performance-based compensation within the Authority's collective bargaining agreements and for all at-will employees.

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As a result of her efforts, the Airport Authority recently received the *Cornerstone OnDemand 2014 Remarkable Achievement Visionary Excellence* award. The Federal Aviation Administration also recognized the personnel training enhancements LaRoche and her team have infused into the Airport Authority and awarded Detroit Metropolitan Airport the FAA 2012 Safety Award for safety, enhancements and operational improvements.

LaRoche is active in her community and maintains leadership roles with several aviation and human resource organizations including:

- Vice Chair of the Human Resources Steering Group with Airport's Council International – North America
- A member of the State Bar of Michigan
- And professional member of the Society of Human Resources Management, American Association of Airport Executives, and Women in Aviation

“Gale also takes time to work with at-risk, adolescent girls at Vista Maria,” said Naughton. “While we are extremely proud Gale is being recognized by her industry peers, the largest benefit of her work for us, is that employees who embrace our organization’s core values and who invest time in skills and leadership development are the employees with the greatest chance for advancement.”

Winners in other categories included: Barbara A. Palmer, Corporate VP of Human Resources and Employee Services, Botsford Hospital; John J. Quattrone, Senior VP, Global Human Resources, General Motors; and Teresa Schwartz, VP Human Resources, JVS

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***Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW) welcomed more than 32 million passengers in 2013 and is one of the world’s leading air transportation hubs. With service from 13 scheduled passenger airlines, Michigan’s largest airport offers more than 1,100 flights per day to and from nearly 150 non-stop destinations on four continents. In 2010, DTW ranked highest in overall customer satisfaction among large airports in the J.D. Power and Associates North America Airport Satisfaction Study. With two award-winning passenger terminals, six jet runways, and an onsite AAA Four-Diamond Westin Hotel, DTW is among the world’s most efficient, customer friendly and operationally capable airports in North America. DTW is operated by Wayne County Airport Authority, which also operates nearby Willow Run Airport—an important corporate, cargo and general aviation facility. The Airport Authority is entirely self-sustaining and does not receive tax dollars to support airport operations. Visit [www.metroairport.com](http://www.metroairport.com) for more information.***