



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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N E W S R E L E A S E

Capital Airport Continues Growth in Passenger Numbers.

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS..... Passengers boarding flights from Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport increased 28% for the first quarter of 2010 as compared to the same period in 2009. A total of 29,643 passengers were recorded for the three-month period ending March 2010.

“This is welcome growth for three months in a row,” said Kari Selinger, Airport Authority Board Commissioner and Marketing Committee Chair. “Even during these tough economic times, people in Springfield and central Illinois see the value of flying from Capital Airport.” Direct Air was a big contributor to the increase in passenger activity. However, American Airlines also posted a noticeable increase in passenger activity for their non-stop flights to Chicago with a first quarter gain of 10%, while United posted a smaller gain in traffic as compared to the same period last year.

“The increase in passenger counts is a good sign that our marketing efforts are paying off, and people in central Illinois are responding,” said Frank Vala, Airport Authority Chair.

The Direct Air flights to Ft. Myers/Punta Gorda were very successful with nearly full planes during February and March and load factors up to 90 percent during the last two months of the seasonal service to Florida. Currently, the Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport is served by 43 weekly departures to Chicago’s O’Hare International Airport on American and United, and Direct Air will resume the seasonal non-stop flights to Myrtle Beach S.C. on May 27th. Current flight schedules can be found on the airport’s website at www.flyspi.com or by calling the airport’s Passenger Service Center at (217) 788-9200 between the hours of 8:00am and 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.

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