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## **Hartsfield-Jackson Celebrates Air Cargo Leaders**

*Cargo carriers honored for achievements in growth, business development*

**ATLANTA** – Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) officials and the Metro Atlanta Chamber (MAC) hosted their annual ATL Cargo Awards celebration Wednesday, May 4 at the Airport's North Cargo facility. The luncheon honored businesses and leaders for their achievements in air cargo, welcomed new cargo carriers to ATL, and featured a look at burgeoning cargo opportunities at ATL.

Hartsfield-Jackson officials also vowed to catapult the ATL into the top five U.S. airports for cargo volume.

"Atlantans are visionaries. Anything we say we're going to do, we're going to do it," Aviation General Manager Miguel Southwell told the luncheon crowd of nearly 200 attendees Wednesday. "When we stand here, and we say that we're going to move from 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation in cargo movement to within the top five in the nation, we're going to do that, too."

"I'd like to thank the cargo employees, freight forwarders, ground handlers, airlines and trucking companies," said Vivica Brown, ATL's assistant general manager for commercial development. "All of you who have helped make Hartsfield-Jackson a formidable contender in cargo aviation – a rising star in the industry – watch out world, here we come."

The world's most traveled airport, Hartsfield-Jackson made history last year as the first airport ever to serve more than 100 million passengers in a single year. Cargo traffic at ATL also experienced substantial growth as it accommodated more than 626,000 metric tons of cargo in 2015, a 4 percent increase in freight tonnage over 2014's totals. 2015 also saw ATL transport its largest piece of cargo ever when a 200-ton power turbine was flown from Hartsfield-Jackson to Argentina.

During the luncheon Wednesday, ATL officials recognized and welcomed new cargo carriers **AirbridgeCargo, CAL Cargo, China Cargo Airlines and Turkish Airlines.**

Six awardees were also honored in the following categories:

**Cargo Airline of the Year: Delta Air Lines**, which transported more than 200,000 metric tons of cargo through ATL;

**Belly-Cargo Airline of the Year: United Airlines**, which saw a 56 percent increase in cargo transported through ATL;

**All-Cargo Airline of the Year: Korean Air**, which saw a 4 percent increase in metric tons of cargo shipped through ATL;

**Cargo Employee of the Year: Denise Feltman**, an Amerijet International employee who has served the cargo carrier for more than 19 years;

**Freight Forwarder of the Year: Kintetsu World Express**, for its work at ATL;

**Trucking Company of the Year: J&P Hall Express**, for its work at ATL.

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#### **Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport**

Hartsfield-Jackson (ATL) is the world's most traveled and most efficient airport, serving more than 101 million passengers annually with nonstop service to more than 150 U.S. destinations and nearly 70 international destinations in more than 45 countries. ATL boasts a direct economic impact of \$34.8 billion in metro Atlanta and a total direct economic impact of \$70.9 billion in Georgia. The Airport is the largest employer in Georgia, with more than 63,000 employees. The Airport is a frequent recipient of awards of excellence for concessions, operations, architectural engineering and construction – including the 2013 Global Efficiency Excellence Award from the Air Transport Research Society, 2013 Project of the Year, Architectural Category for the Maynard H. Jackson Jr. International Terminal from the American Association of Airport Executives Southeast chapter and the 2012 Best Airport in North America, Business Travel Award from the Business Traveler Magazine. ATL has completed more than \$6 billion worth of capital improvements, including a new, energy-efficient rental car center, a gold LEED-certified international terminal and aesthetic and functional upgrades to its concourses, people movers and parking services. For more information, go to [www.atlanta-airport.com](http://www.atlanta-airport.com). Check out the Airport's YouTube channel by visiting [www.youtube.com/AtlantaHartsfield](http://www.youtube.com/AtlantaHartsfield), follow us on Twitter (@ATLairport) and become a fan on Facebook (Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport).

#### **NOTE TO NEWS EDITORS**

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