



# **Passenger traffic at MidAmerica Airport continues upward trend**

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BELLEVILLE - Today MidAmerica St. Louis Airport welcomed Allegiant Airline's 100,000<sup>th</sup> passenger to board at the airport this calendar year. Mr. Fred Pierce, of Fayetteville, Ill., checked in for a flight to Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He was embarking on his first flight to the sunshine state with his wife Diane, who convinced him to fly and

use Allegiant instead of making the drive like they usually do. Airport Director Tim Cantwell presented him with a certificate and a gift card to Eckert's Country Store and



Farm.

“This is a great milestone for the airport. We’ve moved up to the sixth busiest passenger airport in Illinois,” Cantwell commented.

St. Clair County Board Chairman Mark Kern commented, “The region is clearly recognizing the travel convenience and customer value of MidAmerica hosting Allegiant. Passenger growth in the last few years is phenomenal and growing more each day.”

As additional evidence of growth at MidAmerica, passenger traffic at MidAmerica St. Louis Airport (BLV) increased by almost 23.5 percent in September 2017 as compared

to September 2016. A total of 15,589 passengers traveled through BLV in September 2017 as compared to 12,575 during September 2016. Through the first three quarters of 2017, 180,489 passengers departed from or landed at the airport as compared to 120,962 during the same period in 2016, representing a year-to-date increase of more than 49 percent in overall passenger traffic at BLV.

Based on the number of current flights using MidAmerica and the addition of direct service to Phoenix/Mesa beginning in mid-November, airport officials anticipate overall traffic for all of 2017 will be approximately 50 percent higher than 2016, continuing to build on the solid growth over the past couple of years.

The FAA released [Preliminary Calendar Year 2016 Passenger Boarding Data](#) in July, revealing a 145.44 percent increase in passenger boardings at MidAmerica for 2016 compared to passenger counts tallied in 2015. The data showed that MidAmerica St. Louis Airport (BLV) had the SECOND HIGHEST GROWTH of any PRIMARY AIRPORT IN THE NATION, as more than 157,000 passengers flew through MidAmerica in calendar year 2016, up from 63,000 passengers in 2015.

Furthermore, current [Bureau of Transportation Statistics](#) (through June 2017) show BLV now ranked at number 222 among 804 U.S. airports in departures and number 6 in Illinois (behind Bloomington-Normal and ahead of Rockford and Springfield).

Allegiant Airlines now serves the following destinations from MidAmerica St. Louis Airport: Destin / Fort Walton Beach, FL (VPS); Fort Lauderdale, FL (FLL); Fort Myers / Punta Gorda, FL (PGD); Jacksonville, FL (JAX); Las Vegas, NV (LAS); Myrtle Beach, SC (MYR); Orlando/Sanford, FL (SFB); and Tampa / St. Pete, FL (PIE). Direct service to Phoenix / Mesa, AZ (AZA) begins November 17, 2017.

Flight days, times and the lowest fares can be found at AllegiantAir.com, where St. Louis-area travelers can book their entire vacation to either destination for less.

## **MidAmerica St. Louis Airport**

MidAmerica St. Louis Airport is located in Mascoutah, Illinois, in the eastern portion of the St. Louis metropolitan area. Major multimodal rail and inland port centers are located within 22 miles of the airport, which also enjoys easy access to five interstate highways via I-64. With parallel runways of 8,000 and 10,000 feet, the airport can handle simultaneous take-offs and landings in all conditions, minimizing delays. It has an annual capacity of 200,000 operations. Tenants include Boeing, which recently located a new manufacturing facility at the airport; North Bay Produce, an international, grower-owned, year-round, fresh produce marketing and distribution cooperative headquartered in Traverse City, Mich., as well as AVMATS, a company providing

alternatives for the support and [maintenance of corporate aircraft](#), which has been operating at MidAmerica for almost a decade. MidAmerica is a Joint Use Airport partnering with Scott AFB, the home to US Transportation Command, a multi service organization, and Air Mobility Command, the USAF's component command for airlift. MidAmerica and the 375<sup>th</sup> Air Mobility Wing operate Scott AFB/MidAmerica St. Louis Airport. For more information, visit [www.flymidamerica.com](http://www.flymidamerica.com).