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**Gary / Chicago International Airport Honored
with 2018 -2019 Balchen / Post Snow Removal Award**

*Outstanding Achievement in Small General Aviation Snow & Ice Control Award
Presented by International Aviation Snow Symposium*

(Gary, IN – May 14th, 2019) – Gary / Chicago International Airport has been honored with the 2018-2019 Balchen / Post Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Small General Aviation Snow and Ice Control Category. Awards were presented to the “Snow Crews” of the airports in the Snow Belt for their dedicated efforts in maintaining their airports in safe and operational status during the 2018 - 2019 winter season.

“Our operations crews train continuously to ensure they perform at the highest standards in order to provide safe conditions for air travelers,” said Duane Hayden, Executive Director of Gary / Chicago International Airport. “It’s an honor to be recognized by our peers for our ongoing winter preparedness and is a testament to our personnel for their continued commitment to excellence.”

Applications are submitted by the airport operators on behalf of the local work force in recognition of their efforts in keeping the airports operationally safe at all times. Recommendations for selection may come from the users of airports, airlines, pilots, general aviation, the military and the entire aviation community.

In addition, the members of the Awards Selection Committee provide feedback from their own organizations as to the performance of competing airports.

“Most years, our airport’s unique location will frequently result in the need for some form of snow and ice abatement from October through April,” said Timothy Fesko, Chairman of the Gary / Chicago International Airport Authority. “Being honored in this fashion really shows our teams hard work and effort coming to fruition.”

The 2018 – 2019 season represents the 43rd consecutive year – and 53rd year overall - that such awards have been presented. All categories of airports, including Commercial, General Aviation and Military, compete for these annual awards.

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