



METROPOLITAN AIRPORTS COMMISSION

News Release

May 1, 2025

Contact:

Jeff Lea
MAC Strategic Communications
jeff.lea@mspmac.org
314-793-4240

MAC selects Kelly Gerads as director of reliever airports

The Twin Cities general aviation airports supported 372,000 operations in 2024



MAC Director of Reliever Airports Kelly Gerads. Courtesy of the Metropolitan Airports Commission

MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL, Minn. — The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) has promoted Kelly Gerads to director of reliever airports, responsible for the operation and maintenance of its six general aviation airports in the Twin Cities metro area: St. Paul Downtown Airport, Flying Cloud Airport, Anoka County-Blaine Airport, Crystal Airport, Airlake Airport, and Lake Elmo Airport.

Gerads was promoted from assistant director of reliever airports, a position she's held since 2007. She's spent more than 30 years at the MAC in positions focused on the operations or administration of the

[MAC's general aviation airports](#). Also known as reliever airports, they serve a dynamic flying community and support aviation-related businesses while also helping to relieve congestion at the MAC's flagship commercial airport, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP).

"Kelly Gerads will certainly leverage her wealth of history, experience and connections in her new leadership role," said Brian Ryks, CEO of the MAC. "With such a strong foundation, we're excited to see her drive innovation and collaboration that maximizes the service to our airport users and businesses, while maintaining the great relationships with the many communities near those airports."

In addition to overseeing all day-to-day operations and maintenance, Gerads will be responsible for managing more than 850 leases and all commercial tenant operations at the six airports. She will also lead the effort to attract new investments and development that support the airports' strategic growth. MAC general aviation airports supported more than 372,000 aircraft operations in 2024.

Gerads holds a master's degree in business administration from the University of St. Thomas and a bachelor's degree in aviation management from St. Cloud State University. She's an accredited airport executive with the American Association of Airport Executives and a member of its Great Lakes Chapter.

About The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC)

The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) owns and operates one of the nation's largest airport systems, including [Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport \(MSP\)](#) and six general aviation airports. The MAC's airports connect the region to the world and showcase Minnesota's extraordinary culture to millions of passengers from around the globe who arrive or depart through MAC airports each year. Though a public corporation of the state of Minnesota, the organization is not funded by income or property taxes. Instead, the MAC's operations are funded by rents and fees generated by users of its airports. For more information, visit www.metroairports.org.

###

Minneapolis-St. Paul International • Airlake • Anoka County-Blaine • Crystal • Flying Cloud • Lake Elmo • St. Paul Downtown