



Minnesota Department of Transportation

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## News Release

Office of Aeronautics  
222 E. Plato Blvd.  
Mail Stop 410  
St. Paul, MN 55107-1618

Office Tel: 651.296.3404  
Fax: 651/297-5643

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Contact: Daniel McDowell  
651/296-3404

### **STATE AIR TRANSPORTATION STAFF EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION**

St. Paul, Minn.—Two members of the Air Transportation section of Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT), Aeronautics office were recently recognized by the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA), for their excellence and contributions to corporate aviation safety.

Mn/DOT Aeronautics Chief Pilot Tim Valento received recognition for more than 7,500 hours of accident free corporate flying. Valento has more than 12,300 hours of flying experience. He has been the Chief pilot for Aeronautics since spring of 1992.

Barbara Loveness, Aircraft Dispatcher for Aeronautics, was also recognized for three years of significant contributions to the safety and safe operations of the State's air transportation aircraft. Loveness has been with Aeronautics for more than three years. Both Loveness and Valento are long time residents of St. Paul.

Mn/DOT, Aeronautics Director Raymond J Rought said, "We are very proud of the dedication to safety that all our staff demonstrates. But it is especially pleasing when they are recognized by nationally known and highly respected organizations like NBAA, for their work and consistent efforts toward aviation safety."

The Minnesota Department of Transportation, Aeronautics office promotes aviation, aviation safety, and aviation education within the state by supporting municipalities, townships and counties (airport sponsors) in the planning, operation, maintenance and development of public aviation facilities.

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