

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Eric J. Frankl, A.A.E.

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As many of you know, Southwest Airlines acquired AirTran Airways on May 2, 2011, and has been evaluating its newly acquired markets to determine how they fit within the Southwest business model. Since the acquisition, Blue Grass Airport has met with representatives of Southwest Airlines on multiple occasions to provide information on our region, culture, tourism and business community.

Today, Blue Grass Airport received notification from Southwest and AirTran that its non-stop service to Orlando, Florida, on AirTran will be discontinued on August 12, 2012. AirTran has been a valuable partner at Blue Grass Airport for approximately two years and a great air carrier for our community.

While we are disappointed that AirTran will discontinue its operation in Lexington and that Southwest will not be coming to central Kentucky at this time, we will continue to serve our passengers with the strong service of our existing airlines and continue to develop new opportunities.

Blue Grass Airport serves more than one million passengers annually with service to 15 non-stop destinations. Orlando will continue to be served by Allegiant Air, which is one of five low-fare direct destinations from Lexington.

Over the years, Blue Grass Airport has cultivated close relationships with both its existing and new carriers to educate these airlines on the traveling needs of eastern and central Kentucky. As we seek opportunities for expanded service, we remain mindful that we are fortunate to be served by so many non-stop destinations—especially for a mid-size community like Lexington.

We wish Southwest much success as it continues its merger with AirTran, and we are appreciative of the great relationship formed with AirTran over the last several years.



Eric J. Frankl, A.A.E.
Executive Director