

Press Release

ENGLAND AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JON GRAFTON RESIGNS

Grafton submits resignation, effective May 1, after 24 years of service.

Grafton commends Board for its work and thanks them for the opportunity to serve

England Airpark – 2/15/2018

Mr. Jon Grafton, Executive Director, submitted to the Board of Commissioners of the England Authority his resignation effective May 1, 2018. Mr. Grafton is the second Executive Director in the history of the England Authority with a term beginning January 1994 and ending May 2018.

During his term as Executive Director, the England Authority:

- Acquired 3,620 acres that now compose England Airpark
- Moved 5.8 million air passengers thru AEX
- Conducted 971, 000 air operations
- Attracted over \$407 million in public and private capital investment
- Reduced Rapides Parish property taxes by approximately \$15 million
- Created or supported over 7,000 direct and indirect jobs in our eight parish region
- Added over \$1.8 billion in additional household income in our eight parish region
- Raised \$143 million in revenue to fund operation expenses
- Built an organization with \$210 million in net assets; cash position of \$11 million; debt of \$3.6 million
- Won 9 national awards of excellence

Mr. Grafton commended the "England Team" composed of elected officials, England appointing authorities, England Board, England employees, and colleagues for their hard work and vision in moving England forward.

Prior to his present position, Mr. Grafton served as City Clerk of the City of Alexandria.

GRAFTON QUOTES: "God blessed this community with England Airpark, its opportunity and success. I thank the Board and the people of Central Louisiana for this opportunity of service. With reliance on Providence and the people of this community, England Airpark's best days are yet to come."

"England's slate of projects are well on their way, a new master plan process is beginning, making this an excellent time for transition to new leadership for the new decade."

"I intend to explore some interesting opportunities in the public and private sector, travel and consulting."

Scott Linzay, Chairman of England Authority quote: "The Airpark would not be what it is today without his work. This facility is recognized nationally as a model because of his team's work. It has been a pleasure working with Mr. Grafton who has made this facility second to none."

ATTACHMENT:

1. Resignation Letter
2. England Airpark Infographic

For more information contact: Jon Grafton at jgrafton@englandairpark.org or 318-792-6063.
*****END RELEASE*****

February 15, 2018

Mr. Scott Linzay, Chairman

England Economic and Industrial Development District

1611 Arnold Drive

Alexandria, Louisiana 71303

Mr. Linzay:

With respect, I hereby tender my resignation as Executive Director of the England Economic and Industrial Development District effective May 1, 2018.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve the England Authority these 24 years. The Board of Commissioners has done a wonderful job of creating and executing a vibrant vision for the redevelopment of England Airpark. Working together with our public and private partners, we have:

- Acquired 3,620 acres that now compose England Airpark
- Moved 5.8 million air passengers thru AEX
- Conducted 971, 000 air operations
- Attracted over \$407 million in public and private capital investment
- Reduced Rapides Parish property taxes by approximately \$15 million
- Created or supported over 7,000 direct and indirect jobs in our eight parish region
- Added over \$1.8 billion in additional household income in our eight parish region
- Raised \$143 million in non-tax revenue to fund operation expenses
- Built an organization with \$210 million in net assets; cash position of \$11 million; debt of \$3.6 million
- Won 9 national awards of excellence

It has been my privilege to work with an outstanding group of employee's that believe that employment at England is a mission to create a better future for Central Louisiana. I sincerely thank the employee's for your dedication, perseverance, creativity and loyalty. I would like to offer a special thank you to Mr. Ronnie Hair, Deputy Director. You have been an invaluable asset to the England Authority and me. Your unwavering and tireless dedication to our mission, wise counsel and steadfast friendship will never be forgotten. To Scott Gammel, Kevin Brown and David Broussard, let me offer a hearty "Well Done". You are the foundation of a bright future.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the elected and appointed officials that have supported and nourished the England Authority thru these years. Let me also thank our many partners in local government, professional economic development, aviation and base reuse for their steadfast support and guidance.

Finally, I would like to thank my dear wife Kenne and our two boys Don and Ken. For 24 years, they have lived and breathed the successes, failures and challenges of England Airpark. Whether a national tragedy like 9-11, hurricane, ice storm, prospect or critical legislation, they knew Dad would be home once England was safe. Thank you for your sacrifice, patience and love.

God blessed this community with the presence, opportunity and success of England Airpark. With reliance on Providence and confidence in the people of this community, I know that the best days are yet to come for England Airpark and Central Louisiana.

Respectfully submitted with sincere appreciation for this opportunity of service,



Jon W. Grafton, CM, CMC, MPA

Executive Director

England Economic and Industrial Development District

Cc: All Board

Mr. John Ryland, General Counsel

25 YEARS OF PROGRESS



DISADVANTAGED
BUSINESS
ENTERPRISE
CONTRACTS:

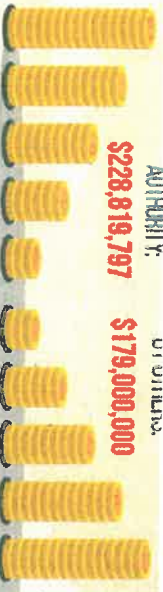
\$13 MILLION

NUMBER OF
RESOLUTIONS/
LEGISLATION:

3,710

NUMBER OF
GALLONS OF
AVIATION
FUEL SOLD:

90,807,834



AT ENGLAND
AIRPARK:
\$407,819,797



REDUCTION OF RAPIDES PARISH
PROPERTY TAXES: **\$15 MILLION**



ENGLAND AIRPARK CONNECTED
ENTITIES SUPPORT OVER **7,000**
JOBS IN THE 8-PARISH REGION

ENGLAND AIRPARK CONNECTED
ENTITIES HAVE GENERATED OVER
\$7 BILLION IN ADDITIONAL BUSINESS
SALES IN THE 8-PARISH REGION

EA CONNECTED ENTITIES HAVE GENERATED
OVER **\$1.8 BILLION** IN ADDITIONAL HOUSEHOLD
INCOME IN THE 8-PARISH REGION

OPERATION
EXPENDITURES
BY ENGLAND
AIRPARK:

\$143,120,358



2,004



NUMBER OF PASSENGERS USING AEX: **5,812,049**

ENGLAND AIRPARK TOTAL NET ASSETS: **\$210,153,777**

NUMBER OF LANDINGS/TAKEOFFS: **971,476**

NUMBER OF ACRES IN ENGLAND AIRPARK: **3,620**

COMMERCIAL LEASES:
1 MILLION SQUARE FEET

