ACRP Ambassadors: Sharing Research Peer-To-Peer

Greg Gobble needed help. Greg is manager of the municipal airport in Keokuk, Iowa and president of Lindner Aviation, which provides FBO services at the airport. Like many airport professionals, Gobble has numerous responsibilities that cover an array of technical topics. He wears many hats, some of which fit better than others.

“I am an aircraft guy first and an airport manager second,” said Gobble. So when he needed help to address a critical land use and zoning issue with his airport commission, what did Gobble do? He turned to an ACRP Ambassador.

Enter Rhonda Chambers.

Chambers is the manager of the Fort Dodge, Iowa Regional Airport and member of the Board of Directors of the Iowa Public Airports Association. She is also an ACRP Ambassador.

“I’ve known Rhonda a long time and have relied on her knowledge and expertise in the past,” said Gobble. “When I heard her speak as an ACRP Ambassador I realized that, all of a sudden, I had access to a whole new level of assistance. So, when this sticky land use and zoning issue surfaced with my airport commission, I called on Rhonda.”

Chambers provided Gobble with a copy of ACRP Report 58: Airport Industry Familiarization and Training for Part-Time Airport Policy Makers, which he utilized extensively with his local airport commission, the Keokuk City Council, and in numerous public venues. “It was amazing how much information contained in that ACRP report independently supported my positions and recommendations in a much more concise manner than I could,” noted Gobble.

“I first learned about the ACRP Ambassador Program from an ambassador who spoke at an airport conference. That presentation inspired me. The ACRP Ambassador Program is the best opportunity I ever said yes to.”

— Rhonda Chambers
ACRP Ambassador and Manager
Fort Dodge Municipal Airport

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Above: ACRP Ambassador and Fort Dodge Regional Airport Manager Rhonda Chambers (center) with fellow participants at the 2015 Iowa Aviation Conference in Des Moines, IA. Ambassadors like Chambers engage with attendees at industry conferences and serve as liaisons between the TRB, ACRP, and practitioner community. Pictured (left to right) are Derick Anderson, McClure Engineering Company; Pamela Osgood, Mason City Municipal Airport; Rhonda Chambers; Robert Grierson, Dubuque Regional Airport; Mike Marr, Iowa DOT Office of Aviation; and Todd Dalsing, Dubuque Regional Airport. Photo courtesy of Rhonda Chambers.
ACRP Ambassador Program Fast Facts

- **37 Ambassadors since engaged since 2012.**
- **Representatives come from each FAA region.**
- **Participated in over 120 aviation industry events.**
- **Communicated ACRP research results to over 20,000 industry practitioners.**

Applications are accepted on a continuous basis throughout the year. If you have a passion for improving the airport industry is a significant way, the ACRP Ambassadors Program is an excellent opportunity. Visit the ACRP website at [www.TRB.org/ACRP](http://www.TRB.org/ACRP) to learn more about the Ambassador Program and how you can positively impact our airport community.

In calling on ACRP Ambassador Rhonda Chambers, Greg Gobble quickly recognized how beneficial the program can be to his work as an airport manager. “I would have been hard pressed to find solutions to our land use and zoning issue without the help of an ACRP Ambassador”, said Gobble. “I found great value in having a “go to” person who could help in my time of need.”