

Metro wins environmental award

The Airports Council International - North America have awarded Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport and Albany County Airport Authority with this year's ACI-NA Environmental Achievement Awards.

The council recently conducted its third annual contest recognizing member airports for their "above and beyond" commitment to the environment. The ACI-NA represents local, regional and state governing bodies that own and operate commercial airports in the United States and Canada. ACI-NA enplane more than 98 percent of the domestic and virtually all the international airline passenger and cargo traffic in North America.

"Environmental issues continue to be a main area of focus for airports," said Bonnie Wilson, ACI-NA's senior director for airport facilities and services. "The contest is an excellent way to show what airports are doing to improve the environ-

ment in the surrounding communities as well as educate other airports about innovative and effective environmental programs."

Detroit Metro received its award for its creation of Crosswinds Marsh, a wetlands mitigation site. The airport purchased land 12 miles southwest of the airport to create new wetlands to compensate for losses due to the airport's expansion.

Crosswinds Marsh provides sanctuary to wildlife while also providing outdoor activities for Wayne County residents.

Albany International Airport was honored for its anaerobic treatment facility of aircraft de-icing fluid and stormwater runoff.

The awards will be presented at the 8th Annual ACI-NA Regional Conference and Exhibition in Las Vegas in late October.

State economy performs well; jobless rate decreases again

Michigan's seasonally adjusted August unemployment rate decreased by two-tenths of a percentage point to a record low of 3.2 percent, Dr. Barbara Bolin, director of the Michigan Department of Career Development, announced.

Michigan's seasonally adjusted July unemployment rate of 3.4 percent was the previous low. The state's August unemployment estimate of 164,000 was the lowest level since at least 1970, while the August unemployment estimate was 4,906,000.

"Michigan's August labor market data reinforce the fact that our state's economy continues to perform very well," Dr. Bolin said. "Joblessness fell in August with the recall of workers who were laid off in July due to model changeover in the auto industry." The state unemployment rate in the last two months has fallen below the range of 3.7 - 4.0 percent, which prevailed for most of the prior year and

one-half.

Labor Force Declines

Michigan's civilian labor force level decreased by 22,000 in August to total 5,070,000. The reduction in the labor force can be attributed to the withdrawal of summer and seasonal workers and job seekers. Employment declined by 11,000 in Michigan in August, and unemployment decreased by 11,000.

Since January 1999, employment in Michigan has increased by 37,000, and unemployment has decreased by 28,000. From August 1998 to August 1999, employment has increased by 70,000, or 1.4 percent.

Michigan's Unemployment Rate A Full Percent Below National Average

For the first time, Michigan's jobless rate fell in August a full one percentage point below the national average. With the August U.S. unemployment rate of 4.2 percent, Michigan's unem-

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ployment rate has remained below the national rate for the 50th consecutive month.

State joblessness has declined over the year, as the state rate was six-tenths of a percentage point below the August 1998 rate of 3.8 percent.

Payroll Jobs Decrease

According to the monthly survey of employers, seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs decreased by 13,000 in August to total 4,579,500. Job reduction was concentrated in construction (-4,000), manufacturing (-3,000), and government (-3,000).

Since August 1998, payroll jobs have increased by 62,000, or 1.2 percent. The sectors that have recorded significant job growth since August 1998 include construction (+8,000), retail trade (+18,000), and services (+25,000).

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