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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**THE MINOT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IS AWARDED  
"2012 COMMERCIAL SERVICE AIRPORT OF THE YEAR"**

The Minot International Airport has received the "2012 Commercial Service Airport of the Year" award. The award was presented March 5, 2013 at the Upper Midwest Aviation Symposium held in Fargo. The award is sponsored by the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission in partnership with the Airport Association of North Dakota. This award is for excellence in maintaining safety, project management, and community awareness.

Presenting the award was Tim Thorsen, President of the Airport Association of ND and Larry Taborsky, Director of North Dakota Aeronautics Commission. Accepting the award for the Minot International Airport was Don Larson, JD Karhoff, and Airport Director Andrew Solsvig.

**Accomplishments for 2012 were:**

In 2012, the Minot International Airport began work on a Terminal Area Study which resulted in the final decision by the city to begin the process for multiple large airport improvement projects including the work to design and construct a new terminal building with an expanded parking lot and commercial service apron. Multiple capacity improvement projects like this are greatly needed in Minot since they have seen a dramatic annual increase in passenger numbers in the last few years. From boarding 66,000 passengers in 2009, in just three years the airport ended 2012 with 224,000 passengers which was a 49% increase from 2011 numbers. By working with the airlines, the airport was also able to increase the amount of commercial service provided to the surrounding community and currently provides 12-15 daily flights during the peak season.

This past year the Minot International Airport, through the help of community involvement, was also able to offer a free "Soaring Over the Souris Air Show" in which it is estimated that at least 15,000 people were in attendance. The airport was also very active in aviation advocacy through informational sessions, speaking engagements, media coverage, and marketing.

The Minot International Airport is congratulated for a tremendous year of accomplishments.