



## NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Valerie Lough

P: 937-324-7300

E: [vlough@springfieldohio.gov](mailto:vlough@springfieldohio.gov)

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **SkyVision Team to Receive Air Traffic Controllers Association Outstanding Achievement Award**

SPRINGFIELD, OH (September 16, 2019) – The Air Traffic Controllers Association (ATCA) has issued its Annual Team Award for Outstanding Achievement to the SkyVision program at Springfield-Beckley Municipal Airport.

Peter Dumont, President and CEO of ATCA announced that the team of researchers from the Air Force Research Laboratory, other federal, state, and local government agencies, industry, and academic partners will receive the award for their work in the ground-based detect and avoid technology.

In a letter to the group last month, Dumont wrote, “Congratulations on your achievement and the great work you are doing to advance the science, safety, and efficiency of air traffic control. We look forward to recognizing your great achievement at ATCA Annual (luncheon).”

SkyVision is a ground-based detect and avoid technology that operates at Springfield-Beckley Municipal Airport. The Airport, The City of Springfield, U.S. Air Force Research Lab, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the State of Ohio, DriveOhio and the Dayton Development Coalition partnered in the effort to bring the drone development to the area. The research and development could give way to growth in both military and commercial arenas.

“The UAV ecosystem is something that involves private industry, educational institutions, research agencies and government working closely together, something that can serve Springfield well into the future,” said Tom Franzen, City of Springfield Assistant City Manager and Director of Economic Development. “We’re proud that the hard work of this dedicated team was recognized by the ATCA, and honored to be part of this groundbreaking program.”

Earlier this year, Franzen, along with Commissioners Joyce Chilton and David Estrop, presented to Ohio Governor Mike Dewine a proclamation naming April 26, 2019 SkyVision Day in Springfield.

The proclamation was presented during an event at Springfield-Beckley Airport announcing that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) granted a certificate of waiver or authorization to the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory for unmanned aerial systems (UAS) research at the Springfield airport.

The decision by the FAA allowed flight of drones in the national airspace. The Ground-Based Detect and Avoid (GBDAA) Project works as an air traffic control for unmanned aircraft, operating from a mobile center on the ground.

The ATCA recognition will be formally announced at the organization's annual awards luncheon on Oct. 22 in Washington, D.C.