

## APPROVAL OF CONTRACT IN EXCESS OF \$2,000,000

**Vendor:** SkyWest Airlines, Inc.

**Item:** Airline Services

**Amount:** \$5,087,466

**Term:** Aug. 5, 2025 – Aug. 4, 2027

**Department:** Auxiliary Services

**Source of Funds:** General

**Remarks:**

On behalf of the university, Auxiliary Services is seeking approval from the Board of Trustees to enter into a Transportation Services Agreement with SkyWest Airlines for commercial air service for a term of two years. Purdue's financial responsibility is not to exceed \$5,087,466 over the two-year period and may be less depending on revenues. This agreement represents a significant step forward in our commitment to supporting the university's operational needs through improved travel options. The enhanced capacity, direct booking capabilities and strategic alignment with the Purdue University Airport's new terminal make this agreement a pivotal component of our long-term travel and logistics strategy.

**Additional Information:**

- **Increased Flight Capacity:** The new agreement will use larger aircrafts, CRJ 200 twin engine jets, with capacity for 50 passengers per flight. This increase in capacity ensures more seats are available for travelers. SkyWest agrees to maintain at least one daily nonstop roundtrip flight each day between West Lafayette (LAF) and Chicago's O'Hare International Airport (ORD) for the duration of this agreement.
- **United Airlines Branding and Booking Capabilities:** The new flights will be branded under United Airlines, a globally recognized carrier. This offers the advantage of leveraging United's extensive infrastructure, reliability and customer service reputation, which enhances the travel experience for our passengers. Travelers will have the ability to book flights directly via United Airlines' website, providing a seamless, user-friendly booking process.
- **Improved Operational Performance:** The agreement is expected to result in improved operational performance, with an emphasis on fewer delays, more punctual departures and more reliable arrivals.
- **New Airport Terminal:** This agreement is supported by the upcoming opening of the new airport terminal, which will provide increased capacity and advanced facilities to accommodate the expanded flight offerings and larger aircraft.
- **Strategic Impact:** The expanded flight capacity and improved operational reliability support the university's need for efficient, cost-effective travel options for its growing community. The new agreement not only addresses immediate operational needs but also positions the university for future growth in flight options and destinations.

**Tentative Schedule:**

SkyWest Ticket Sales Begin	April 10, 2025
Amelia Earhart Terminal Opens	Aug. 5, 2025
SkyWest Flights Start at LAF	Aug. 5, 2025