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# MEDIA RELEASE

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## St. Pete-Clearwater Int'l Airport (PIE) Celebrates 10 Years of Service with Allegiant and Sunwing Airlines

St. Pete-Clearwater Int'l Airport (PIE) is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> year of service with Allegiant and Sunwing Airlines with a party today in its baggage claim facility with the airlines, arriving passengers, airport employees/volunteers, tenant businesses, and community partners. The celebration features presentations by the airport and airlines, and a chance to win airline vouchers from Allegiant and Sunwing.

St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport Director Tom Jewsbury states, "In Allegiant and Sunwing's 10 years at PIE, our passengers increased by 322%, boosting our tourism economy and expanding Tampa Bay's travel options. The economic growth for our community has been outstanding."

### Highlights over the past decade of PIE's success

- The annual economic impact of PIE (Florida Department of Transportation 2014) is over \$758 million with 8200 jobs
- PIE has completed over \$104 million in capital projects in this past decade
- PIE is in its 4<sup>th</sup> year of double digit passenger growth
- In 2015, we celebrated setting our all-time passenger record of over 1.6 million passengers, breaking 2004's record by over 300,000 passengers
- In 2016, we will break the record again with a projected 1.8 million
- Sunwing began service at PIE in 2006 with service to Toronto and added Halifax service in 2014
- Sunwing passengers largely originate from Canada as leisure travelers and stay longer than the average visitor
- Allegiant began with 12 routes to start service in late 2006 and now have 53 announced non-stop routes, more non-stops than any airline in the Tampa Bay area
- PIE serves the 3<sup>rd</sup> most passengers in Allegiant's 118 airports
- Allegiant has 12 aircraft and 427 employees based at PIE
- Allegiant is also one the largest group hotel booker in Pinellas County, a significant driver of our tourism records
- Allegiant generously donated 191 vouchers in 2016 to bay area non-profits, including 75 airline vouchers to Big Brothers Big Sisters as part of this summer's Million Dollar Giveaway. Allegiant local managers participate in the airport's new Big Brothers Big Sisters Workplace Mentoring Program investing their time and talents to Clearwater High School students
- Allegiant is instrumental in our War Era Veterans Honor Flights. Honor Flight charters with Allegiant, saving money for the non-profit honoring our war heroes, and just completed their 26<sup>th</sup> mission this week at PIE