



Media Advisory

October 15, 2013

**Salt Lake City Department of Airports and Delta Air Lines
Sponsor "Taking Flight for Autism" Event**

The Salt Lake City Department of Airports is teaming up with Delta Air Lines and Families for Autism and Asperger's Standing Together (F.A.A.S.T.) to host an orientation to air travel for children with autism and their parents on Friday, October 18, from noon to 3:00 p.m.

That afternoon, airport personnel will demonstrate the process for flight check-in, security screening, boarding an aircraft, and will simulate a flight with a full crew. The families will be able to orient their children to the unfamiliar surroundings, noise, and sensations of the airport and flight experience. They will also spend time with a clinical psychologist with autism expertise who will orient them and guide the process.

The program is designed to help children that often find new situations challenging, to acclimate to the airport environment and practice procedures to make them more comfortable when they actually travel by air.

"We are pleased to be able to extend our community outreach program to these families," comments Dave Korzep, Operations Superintendent for the Salt Lake City Department of Airports, "We regularly hold familiarization tours for visually impaired flyers and travelers with disabilities and access challenges. It is a great opportunity to be able to reach out and help this audience."

Media wishing to cover this event should contact Gary Bilbrey with the Department of Airports at (801) 541-1953 or gary.bilbrey@slcgov.com to make advance arrangements and gain security clearance.