

# Biggest Win Of 2023 And What Is Coming In 2024

Airport Magazine Editorial Advisory Board





## Nick Ryan, PMP

*Chief Development Officer*

Arora Engineers

Chadds Ford, Penn.



**M**y approach for determining success starts just before the beginning of each year by establishing a vision board for the coming year. I started 2023 with seven tangible and measurable goals, which included returning to Arora

Engineers as chief development officer to help implement strategic priorities including mentoring disadvantaged and minority owned firms. As the year progressed, I remained self-motivated and completed each goal by June. This accomplishment of completing my 2023 vision board leads as my biggest success for 2023, and helped fuel my focus on what more I can do to provide a meaningful impact within our industry.

I am encouraged by my 2024 vision board, which includes further professional development, promoting aviation careers (especially in middle schools) and helping partners break through their respective glass ceilings. In the year ahead I look forward to the continued progression of key development programs in our airport network and to

the thought leadership shared in publications like this one and at industry conferences, to help increase the pace of collective innovation. Also, I look forward to the implementation of best practices for key areas such as procurement, technology and operational readiness and to you successfully creating and navigating your own vision board.

Helping others and being a resource to early career leaders has always been important to me. I have had several mentors over the years who took time to pour into me, meeting me where I was, to help provide perspective in areas I needed. As you look forward to the year ahead, consider what are your current contributions to keep folks engaged in aviation. Are you creating safe spaces in your organizations where you can obtain feedback to help determine if your systems are working? Are you listening to the voices in your organization and providing direct and specific feedback? Are you sharing and celebrating successes across your entire organization? Are you documenting and acknowledging your own successes?

Our industry has become very fast paced, with many of us wearing different hats to solve complex issues. I have found comfort in keeping a journal of personal and professional successes, especially relating to my vision board, to negate imposter syndrome. My family, basketball and movies have been my way to keep balance. How are you ensuring you care for your mental health?

I am proud to work in a resilient industry among leaders who genuinely care about the environment, inclusive business practices, and social governance. Many of our airport development programs are implementing diversity, equity and inclusion and belonging initiatives to help provide equal access to opportunities, which overall will better sustain and increase diversity in our aviation workforce.

The approaching 2024 leap year provides an extra day to be better. Considering it is also an election year there will be sufficient opportunities to be impactful. No one knows your journey better than you, so create your vision board, complete it, reward yourself and have fun doing your part to help our aviation industry thrive.

