



KENT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AERONAUTICS

Gerald R. Ford International Airport

AIRPORT BOARD

ROGER MORGAN, Chairman
RICHARD A. VANDER MOLEN, Vice Chairman
BIRGIT KLOHS
TERRI LYNN LAND
DAVID A. SLIKKERS
THEODORE J. VONK
FLOYD WILSON, JR.

DEPARTMENT STAFF

BRIAN D. RYKS, A.A.E. Executive Director
PHILLIP E. JOHNSON, A.A.E. Deputy Executive Director
ROBERT W. BENSTEIN, A.A.E. Public Safety & Ops Director
BRIAN PICARDAT, A.A.E. Finance & Admin. Director
THOMAS R. ECKLUND, P.E. Facilities Director
TARA M. HERNANDEZ Mktg. & Communications Mgr.

May 28, 2013

Contact: Brian Ryks, Executive Director

616-233-6000

Ford Airport Welcomes New Marketing and Communications Manager

The Gerald R. Ford International Airport is pleased to announce that Tara Hernandez has been selected for the position of Marketing and Communications Manager for the Kent County Department of Aeronautics. Hernandez, who most recently served as Sports Anchor for FOX 17, begins her new duties today. She will be responsible for the development and implementation of communication and branding strategies, campaigns and programs; represent Ford Airport to the media; coordinate market research activities; the staging of public relations and other special events; and will represent GFIA through public presentations and speaking engagements.

“I am very pleased to have Tara join the GFIA team,” states executive director Brian Ryks. “The experience she has gained at FOX 17, along with her past employment and education, has prepared her well for the breadth of responsibilities she assumes at the airport. I am very excited about the enthusiasm and new dynamic she brings to the airport team.”

Hernandez is a graduate of Michigan State University with a degree in Journalism and a minor in Spanish with specialization in Caribbean & Latin American Studies.

###