American Airlines Newsroom

NEWS RELEASE

Women Builders Council Honors Amanda Zhang for Contributions to the Industry

5/8/2019

FORT WORTH, Texas – The Women Builders Council (WBC) recognized Amanda Zhang, Managing Director of Government and Airport Affairs at American Airlines, with the Aviation-Sector Champion Award at the organization's 15th Annual Champions Award dinner held in New York City May 7.

Every year, the Aviation-Sector Champion award honors a leader in construction who has set a first-class example on inclusion and diversity in aviation by demonstrating their commitment to include women and minorities in all areas of the business.

"Amanda Zhang has done incredible work to create a better experience for our customers and team members at several of our largest hubs," said Michael Minerva, Vice President of Government and Airport Affairs at American. "As a result of her efforts, her projects have involved strong levels of inclusion and diversity throughout every step of the construction process, and she has set an example for the entire aviation industry. I'm grateful to have her leadership at American and congratulate her on this well-deserved recognition."

Zhang leads a team of seven Corporate Real Estate professionals who oversee the development and execution of American's airport, governmental and community strategies on a state and local basis. The team partners with airports to evaluate and implement prudent capital investments to improve customer service, support operations and enable growth. In addition, Zhang's team has been instrumental in transforming the workspaces of American's team members to enable them to take better care of the customers they serve.

American's Managing Director of Facilities Palmina Whelan (right) presented the award to Amanda Zhang.

American has made significant financial contributions to more than $40 billion in airport capital improvement

projects approved, funded and underway at its hubs. Over the past several years, Zhang has represented the carrier in the long-term lease negotiations of several of these projects, playing a key role in the development, authorization and/or implementation of multibillion-dollar capital programs at American's hubs, including:

DCA: The $1 billion Project Journey at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport will enable American to expand service to its customers with larger jets when the new 14-gate concourse opens.

ORD: The $6 billion Chicago O'Hare International Airport Modernization Program creates a more modern and efficient runway, facility and roadway system (including a new maintenance hangar pictured below), reducing delays and increasing capacity to meet future aviation needs.

ORD: The $8.5 billion ORD Terminal Redevelopment Plan, ORD 21, will transform the customer experience from curb to gate with new and cutting-edge amenities, including the construction of a new global terminal.

DFW: The $2.69 billion Terminal Renewal and Improvement Program (TRIP) at Dallas Fort Worth International Airport elevates the experience at American's largest hub through enhanced concessions, expanded and reconfigured security checkpoints, enhanced self-service ticketing areas, improved parking and highly efficient green technology at Terminals A, B and E.

JFK: The recently announced $344 million enhancement of Terminal 8 at John F. Kennedy International Airport improves the overall travel experience, including added widebody gates, enhanced baggage systems, new joint lounges, premium check-in space and upgraded retail and dining options.

“I’m honored to accept this award on behalf of my team at American, a company that truly embraces diversity and inclusion as a pillar of how we do business,” Zhang said. “It’s reflected in all aspects of the airline — who makes up our team, where we fly to and who we choose to partner with on construction projects. Everywhere around the world that American reaches, we carry that pillar with us.”

Born in Nanjing, China, to two university professors, Amanda earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English literature from Nanjing University in China and began a career in teaching at a local university. Seeking new opportunities and challenges, she moved to the United States three years later and earned a Master of Business Administration at the University of Virginia’s Darden School of Business, joining American in 1996 and serving in numerous management positions in Corporate Real Estate, Corporate Planning, Strategic Alliances and Financial Planning before assuming her current role at the airline’s headquarters in Fort Worth.

WBC is the leading association representing women in the construction industry on several important fronts: legislative advocacy, new business development and professional development, with a special focus on leadership. The annual Champions Awards recognize outstanding women in the building industry who are contributing to a changing work environment and new leadership opportunities, as well as paving the way for a new generation of women builders.

About American Airlines Group

American Airlines and American Eagle offer an average of nearly 6,700 flights per day to nearly 350 destinations in more than 50 countries. American has hubs in Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas/Fort Worth, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, Phoenix and Washington, D.C. American is a founding member of the oneworld® alliance, whose members serve more than 1,000 destinations with about 14,250 daily flights to over 150 countries. Shares of American Airlines Group Inc. trade on Nasdaq under the ticker symbol AAL. In 2015, its stock joined the S&P 500 index. Connect with American on Twitter **@AmericanAir** and at **Facebook.com/AmericanAirlines**.