

Internship Report by Kennedy Vessey

1/10/2022 – Auburn Municipal Airport (S50)

My name is Kennedy Vessey and I have been the Auburn Municipal Airport's Management Intern for the past six months. My internship with the airport started on June 8th, 2021, and was planned to end mid-September, however I was given the amazing opportunity to extend my internship through mid-January. Because the Auburn Airport team is small, I received considerable knowledge and experience by being able to extensively work one on one with the Airport Manager, the Office Administrator, and Airport Operations Technician. Through working with this team, I not only gained invaluable knowledge, but built strong relationships with the airport team, tenants, and other airport professionals. Although I feel that I learned a lot during my Aviation Management studies at Central Washington University, this internship helped put some of my learning into context while also teaching me many other things that I would not have been able to learn within a classroom setting.

During the course of my internship, I was lucky enough to learn about a wide swath of subject areas within the Airport Management field. Between working with tenants, organizing insurance and registration documents, learning about budget, and working out on the airfield through hands on experience with the Airport Operations Technician. I feel as though my experiences here have given me a well-rounded knowledge base to rely upon. During my tenure I was able to participate in wildlife mitigation, the replacement of taxiway lights, the writing of a magazine article for the auburn community (to educate on noise procedures), as well as taking over airfield and fuel inspections as part of the Operations team. One of my biggest projects began with the inspection of all of the City owned Hangars for Rules and Regulations compliance. While this doesn't seem like a huge project, it entailed taking inventory of all aircraft found within City-Owned hangars at Auburn, which included more than 160 aircraft on the field. With that information, I was able to update the National Based Aircraft Database for the airport and determine how many derelict aircraft Auburn truly had that needed to be addressed. I was then able to contact those tenants and help them create a plan of action to fix their aircraft, thereby improving the overall condition of the airport. Although this is still an ongoing project, we have remedied 90-95% of the derelict aircraft on the airfield since I started. Towards the end of this last Summer, I was able to take part in the Airport's largest Preventative Maintenance project of the year with that being in-house crack sealing. Over the course of one week, myself and 4 other Airport staff members crack sealed from 6AM to 3PM every day. It was hard work but I took great pride in knowing that we completed nearly 65% of all of the Airport's crack-sealing needs, thereby improving the condition of the taxiway, taxi lanes and ramp spaces at Auburn.

While I took part in many amazing experiences at Auburn, one of my favorite things about my internship was getting to tour many of the other airports found within the I-5 corridor as part of the "Intern-Swap" program. Some of the tours I went on were to Arlington Municipal Airport, Paine Field Airport in Everett, Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, Yakima Air Terminal-McAllister Field, and to the Renton Municipal Airport where I was able to meet and network with other Airport Interns. As we all know "when you've been to one airport, you've

been to one airport”. Touring all of those Airfields gave me a far better understanding of the Airport Industry as a whole as compared to what you would learn from a textbook or a classroom. I feel as though I now have a better, and more comprehensive understanding of Washington Airports as well as the National Airspace System as a whole.

I would like to thank the Washington Airport Management Association for their financial support that made this internship possible. Although I wish my Internship was not coming to an end, my time at Auburn Municipal Airport has truly set me up for success and has given me the necessary skills needed to jumpstart my exciting Airport Management Career. Thank You!