

RIC INSIDER



RICHMOND
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



March 9, 2026

The internal newsletter created by and intended for members of Team RIC.

Virginia Severe Weather Awareness Week

Dereck Tingfah - Operations Manager, Capital Region Airport Commission

It's **Severe Weather Awareness Week!** The National Weather Service promotes severe weather awareness safety in March each year with an entire week dedicated to improving readiness, responsiveness, and overall resilience against severe weather. Each day, a new topic is presented, including thunderstorms, lightning dangers, flooding, tornadoes, and outdoor weather safety.



On Tuesday, March 10, at 09:45, RIC Public Safety will participate in the Statewide Tornado Drill. The state of Virginia will broadcast the drill on NOAA Weather Radio and the Emergency Alert System. The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) encourages all schools, businesses, workplaces, and families across the state to participate.

Did you know that Virginia averages 18 tornadoes per year? Tornadoes are violently rotating columns of air, extending from a thunderstorm, that are in contact with the ground. Tornadoes develop when wind variations with height support rotation in the updraft. Tornado activity in Virginia peaks in April and is highest in the spring and summer months through September. Historically, tornadoes strike most often in the evening and late-night hours.

RIC's Tornado Plan is detailed in [this video from the RIC Airportal archives](#). The video covers procedures, protocols, and safe shelter locations and can be viewed by all members of Team RIC.



LIVING THE VALUES

Employee Recognition Program

Living the Values Employee of the Year



Erica Conley with the Capital Region Airport Commission has been selected as the 2025 RIC Employee of the Year! Erica serves as Executive Assistant to the COO, CFO, and CGO, as well as provides support to other directors. She exemplifies the Living the Values principles of Integrity, Commitment, Service, Safety, Courtesy, and Passion every day by going above and beyond in her duties.

One specific example of Erica's exceptional work occurred on Wednesday, August 27, when an elderly stranded passenger sought assistance at the executive administration office and was greeted by Erica. The gentleman had been lured to Richmond through a fraudulent internet scheme. Expecting to be greeted by the companion who engaged him on the internet, no one showed up to meet him, and he was left with no funds in his bank account.

Erica compassionately listened to the individual and provided refreshments and a place to sit down in the Business Center. Discovering that he was a veteran, Erica coordinated with Tricia Riggs at the USO to allow him to stay in the USO. Erica then worked with Ali Ait-Abdellah with United to secure the gentleman a spot on the standby list for a flight back to his home on Thursday the 28th. Erica, thank you for going "above and beyond" with your care and empathy for this customer.

If you see an airport employee providing exceptional service, please consider filling out a [Living the Values nomination](#) so that they may be celebrated.



Jefferson Ellett
Valet Attendant
Capital Region Airport Commission

**Congrats on
Your Retirement
After 26 Years at RIC!**



American Red Cross



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Give the Gift of Life

RIC is proud to partner with Delta Air Lines and the American Red Cross for an airport blood drive on **March 23, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.** in the South Ticketing Conference Room.

Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are encouraged. Schedule your appointment today at www.redcrossblood.org and enter the sponsor code **DeltaRIC**.

Important Dates

- March 9-13** Virginia Severe Weather Awareness Week
- March 17** St. Patrick's Day
- March 18** RIC Joint Safety Meeting
- March 23** [Blood Drive](#)
- March 26** Inaugural [JetBlue](#) flight to San Juan, Puerto Rico
- April 22** F.O.D. Day

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If you have ideas for future editions of *RIC Insider*, please email Aaron Haynes at ahaynes@flyrichmond.com.

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