



2755 Heartland Road  
Suite 200  
Falls Church, VA 22043  
www.TheArcofNova.org

## News Release

**Contact: Larry Rockwell**  
Phone: (703) 208-1119 ext. 114  
Cell: (843) 368-4844  
LRockwell@thearcfnova.org

---

### **The Arc of Northern Virginia, Dulles International, and United Airlines To Host Wings For All®**

*Simulated experience introduces air travel to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities*

**March 14, 2018, Fairfax, VA** – The Arc of Northern Virginia has teamed with Dulles International Airport, United Airlines, The Arc of the United States, and airport partners to simulate the air travel experience for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The immersive rehearsal is intended to make the process of traveling through an airport less overwhelming for people with special needs.

More than 150 participants and family members are registered to attend the Wings for All® event on March 17<sup>th</sup> at Dulles International Airport. At the event, participants will learn best practices and tips for navigating the airport and air travel process. Participants will:

- check in at United ticket counters and learn about advance steps families can take at check-in to inform airlines and make accommodation requests,
- practice using the TSA Cares program for security screening assistance,
- proceed to a United gate via mobile lounge and board a real aircraft,
- buckle-up for a simulated flight aboard a United Boeing 777, and
- return to the terminal via AeroTrain, pick up luggage in baggage claim and meet with airport and airline employees.

Through the Wings for All® program, Dulles International and its partners hope participating families will gain the experience and confidence needed to travel through the airport on a future trip. The Wings for All® program also gives airport, airline, TSA professionals and other personnel the opportunity to observe, interact and deliver their services in a structured learning environment.

Media are invited to cover the Wings for All® event at **Dulles International Airport** on **March 17, 2018**, where they will be able to follow the entire journey and document the experience of participating families. Media are encouraged to RSVP no later than 12:00 p.m. on Friday, March 16.

#### **Details for Media Coverage:**

- **WHAT:** Wings for All® airport and flight simulation experience for individuals with disabilities
- **WHEN:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 – check-in begins at 8:15 a.m., boarding begins at 9:30 a.m. and airport journey is expected to conclude by 10:45 a.m.
- **WHERE:** Washington Dulles International Airport, ticketing (upper) level. Park in hourly parking lot in front of Main Terminal. Advance RSVP and check-in at the United ticketing counters are required. Contact Andrew Trull with the Airports Authority Media Relations in advance for instructions. All media are required to bring a government-issued photo I.D. to be permitted through the TSA screening checkpoint to gate area and onboard the aircraft.

- **WHO:** Participants and families from the National Capital Region and Northern Virginia; volunteers from [The Arc](#), [The Arc of Northern Virginia](#), [Transportation Security Administration](#), [MarketPlace Development](#), [Washington Dulles International Airport](#) and [United Airlines](#)

**MEDIA RSVP REQUIRED:** A media escort is required for the event. Please provide the full name (as it appears on government-issued I.D.) and date of birth to [andrew.trull@mvaa.com](mailto:andrew.trull@mvaa.com) for all attending media and crew **no later than 12:00 p.m. on Friday, March 16**. For questions, call Andrew Trull at [703-417-8840](tel:703-417-8840). All media and crew will be issued United Airlines gate passes that can be picked up at the United ticketing counter.

#### **About The Arc of Northern Virginia**

The Arc of Northern Virginia was founded in 1962 and today represents and serves over 16,000 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD)--such as autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and rare chromosomal disorders--and their families in the cities and counties of Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax, and Falls Church. The Arc of Northern Virginia is an organization that builds community opportunities for citizens with disabilities so that they can live "A Life Like Yours."

#### **About the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority**

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority operates the U.S. Capital Region's gateways to the nation and the world, Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and Washington Dulles International Airport, as well as the Dulles Airport Access Highway, the Dulles Toll Road and construction of the Silver Line project, a 23-mile extension of the Metrorail public transit system through northern Virginia. A record 46.6 million passengers passed through the two airports in 2017.

-###-