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**COLLEEN C. BARRETT NAMED 2007 TONY JANNUS AWARD WINNER**  
*Southwest Airlines President and Corporate Secretary to be Honored  
for Her Contributions to Commercial Aviation*

**TAMPA, FLA. (October 25, 2007)** - Celebrating outstanding achievements, leadership and perseverance within the airlines industry, the Tony Jannus Distinguished Aviation Society is proud to recognize Colleen C. Barrett, President and Corporate Secretary of Southwest Airlines, as the 2007 Tony Jannus Award winner. Known as the heart of Southwest Airlines, her uncompromising dedication to the growth of aviation has placed Southwest Airlines in a league of its own. The first female to receive the Award, Barrett will be honored at a reception and dinner banquet at the Tampa Airport Marriott on Thursday, October 25, 2007.

For more than four decades, the Tony Jannus Distinguished Aviation Society has recognized individuals who have made a major contribution to the growth and improvement of the commercial aviation industry. This year's honoree is admired for her strength of character and her ability to place employees and passengers first during crisis. Barrett is undoubtedly an unshakable foundation of Southwest Airlines.

Appointed President of Southwest Airlines in 2001, Barrett is the highest-ranking female in the US airlines industry and is regarded as one of the most influential leaders in aviation history. Beginning her journey as legal secretary to San Antonio lawyer Herb Kelleher (Southwest's co-founder and current executive chairman), Barrett has been a leader in transforming Southwest Airlines from an idea into a multi-million dollar reality. She has excelled in a number of positions, including Vice President Administration and Executive Vice President Customers prior to her appointment as President.

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The luncheon event, a precursor to the Award Dinner, will be held at the Renaissance Vinoy Resort & Golf Club in St. Petersburg. Bonnie Reitz, founder of Inside Out - Culture to Customer and former Continental Airlines executive, will present the keynote speech on achieving corporate excellence and performance in the face of extreme business and market pressures. Johnnie Bryars Byrd, III, the Tony Jannus Student Essay Contest winner, will be recognized at the luncheon as well.

Barrett will be officially recognized at the Tony Jannus Award Dinner Banquet held at the Tampa Airport Marriott. Beginning with a cocktail reception at 6:30 p.m., the black tie dinner starts at 7:30 p.m., during which Barrett will be officially presented with the Award and give her acceptance speech. During the dinner, five area college students studying aviation or issues directly tied to the aviation field will be presented with scholarships.

Southwest Airlines is currently America's leading low-cost air carrier. Since service began at Tampa International Airport in 1996, Southwest Airlines has grown to the largest carrier at the airport with 25 percent of all passenger traffic. Southwest now has more than 80 nonstop daily departures from Tampa International Airport. The airline has been profitable every year since 1973, a record unmatched in the aviation industry.

The Tony Jannus Award is named for the pilot recognized by the Smithsonian as the founder of the world's first scheduled airline. The airline - which began flights on New Year's Day, 1914 - had only one plane, a single-engine Benoist flying boat that flew round trips daily between Tampa and St. Petersburg, Fla. In addition to the Tony Jannus Award program, the Tony Jannus Distinguished Aviation Society recognizes outstanding local students with an annual essay contest and presents college scholarships to worthy university students. For more information on the Tony Jannus Distinguished Aviation Society please visit [www.tonyjannusaward.com](http://www.tonyjannusaward.com).

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