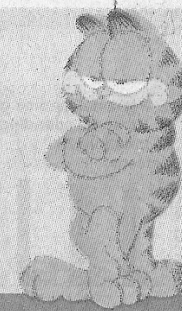


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Continental CEO wins Jannus

By SARA KENNEDY
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ST. PETERSBURG — Larry Kellner, Continental Airlines chairman and chief executive officer, is the 2008 winner of the Tony Jannus Award.

Kellner, 49, of Houston, was honored Thursday for his “worst to first” turnaround of Continental, now the world’s fifth largest airline.

The award, given annually to honor an aviation pioneer, is named for Tony Jannus, who made the first commer-

cial airline flight from St. Petersburg to Tampa in 1914.

Kellner did not attend the announcement ceremony

Thursday at St. Petersburg Museum of History. A colleague, Dave Hilfman, Continental’s senior vice president for worldwide sales, accepted on Kellner’s behalf. The



Kellner

award will be formally presented at an Oct. 30 dinner in St. Petersburg.

Kellner joined Continental in 1995, at a time when the airline was suffering “a lot of internal strife” and “struggling to stay afloat,” according to Colleen Picard, Continental’s director of airport services at TIA. Under his calm, focused approach, the airline not only recovered but thrived and now is a frequent winner of customer service awards, she said.