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LARRY KELLNER NAMED 2008 TONY JANNUS AWARD WINNER
*Continental Airlines' Chairman and CEO Honored for
Contributions to Commercial Aviation*

ST. PETERSBURG, FLA. (March 27, 2008) – Part of the management team responsible for engineering the remarkable turnaround of Continental Airlines, Chairman and CEO Larry Kellner has been named the recipient of the 2008 Tony Jannus Award today. Celebrating those with outstanding achievements, leadership and perseverance within the airlines industry, the Tony Jannus Distinguished Aviation Society will present the Award to Kellner at a dinner banquet at the Renaissance Vinoy Hotel & Resort in St. Petersburg on Thursday, October 30, 2008.

The "Worst to First" turnaround of Continental, now the world's fifth-largest airline, was in its early stages with President Gordon Bethune when Kellner, then 36 years old, joined the extraordinary leadership team as senior vice president and chief financial officer. Since joining the company in 1995, Kellner has held a number of executive positions, including executive vice president, president, chief operating officer, before becoming chairman of the board and chief executive officer in December 2004.

Throughout his tenure, Kellner has fostered the company's unique culture, putting emphasis on strong internal communication and giving employees the tools necessary to provide outstanding customer service. Over the past 12 years, the carrier has won more awards for customer satisfaction than any other airline. In 2008, *Fortune* magazine placed Continental on top of its "Most Admired Global Airline" list for the fifth consecutive year and, in 2007, "America's Most Admired Airline" list for the second consecutive year.

His formula for success is a mix of solid financial insight, willingness to try new approaches and ability to persuade others to believe in the company and product. In addition to strengthening internal communications and customer service, Kellner has promoted international growth at the airline. Continental began its international service in 1998 and now Continental serves more international destinations than any other U.S. carrier.

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Kellner serves on the Board of Directors of numerous community and civic organizations, including Marriott International, Air Transport Association, Greater Houston Partnership, Methodist Hospital, Central Houston, Inc. and Spring Branch Education Foundation. He is a member of the Boy Scouts of America National Executive Board and the March of Dimes advisory board. In addition, Kellner's alma mater, the University of South Carolina, presented him with the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1998.

Serving all of Florida's major airports, Continental currently has 54 daily departures from Tampa International Airport. The Houston-based carrier, together with Continental Express and Continental Connection, has more than 2,900 daily departures throughout the Americas, Europe and Asia, serving 144 domestic and 139 international destinations. With more than 45,000 employees, Continental carries approximately 69 million passengers per year.

Since its first nominee in 1964, the Tony Jannus list of winners has grown to a virtual "Who's Who" in the industry, including such luminaries as Brigadier General Charles Yeager, Donald W. Douglas, Sr., Capt. Edward V. Rickenbacker, Col. Frank Borman, Herb Kelleher, Sir Richard Branson, Joseph Leonard and Colleen Barrett. 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.

The Tampa and St. Petersburg Chambers of Commerce established The Tony Jannus Distinguished Aviation Society in 1964. The Smithsonian Institute recognized Tony Jannus 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, Florida. For more information on the Tony Jannus Distinguished Aviation Society please visit www.tonyjannusaward.com.

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