

FAA'S MAMIE MALLORY HONORED WITH AMAC CATALYST AWARD

Over her 35-year career with the federal government, Mamie Mallory, Assistant Administrator for Civil Rights (ACR) for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), has earned a host of accolades, awards and honors from organizations for outstanding advocacy. But, she considers her recent Catalyst Award from the Airport Minority Advisory Council (AMAC) of special importance.

"This award was earned by my entire team," she said. "It symbolizes the important work we do to represent the rights of the flying public, as well as to improve the level of diversity and inclusion in the airport industry."

"Mamie received the AMAC President's Award, one of the highest honors we bestow," said Krystal Brumfield, AMAC president and CEO. "Our organization's success depends upon the engagement of its membership and partners. This year, the award recognizes an AMAC partner who has demonstrated leadership, service and dedication consistent with AMAC's mission and strategic plan."

Mallory, who has a Master of Science degree in Engineering Management from The George Washington University, a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from North Carolina State University, and a Professional Certificate in Facility Management from George Mason University, began her career with the Department of the Navy as an engineer conducting studies of underwater mines.

When she joined the FAA in 1990 as a general engineer, she began to gravitate toward civil rights programs and initiatives. In addition, to her work as an engineer, she also held collateral duties as an EEO counselor, engineer recruiter, and program manager for persons with disabilities. She was appointed to her current position in 2012.

Mallory is the principal advisor to the Administrator on civil rights, equal employment opportunity, diversity, and affirmative action. She serves as the FAA Diversity Advocate and leads the agency's efforts to create a positive environment that supports and encourages the contributions of all employees. Mallory also manages agency efforts to ensure the elimination of unlawful discrimination in federally-operated and federally-assisted FAA transportation programs at airports.

"The FAA provides \$3.35 billion dollars in grants to improve infrastructure at airports throughout the country," she said. "It is extremely rewarding to ensure that small and diverse businesses achieve a fair share of available opportunities. I've seen aspiring entrepreneurs come into the system and be successful."

What is really stirring, she adds, is to see those who have had success set up informal mentor-protégé relationships with other small business owners to help them achieve their goals. "It builds up over time to affect thousands and thousands of people and their communities."

The challenges of her work include limited resources and staff to monitor more than 1800 airport grants. “We struggle to achieve a quick turnaround on complaints and to keep an eye on fraud, waste, and abuse.”

Her team works to ensure there’s a strong and viable DBE/ACDBE program, as well as programs covering the disability and limited English proficient communities. “That’s why organizations like AMAC are so valuable to us,” she said. “Our partnership with them gives us eyes and ears in the airport communities we serve. They are dedicated and committed to successful programs.”