SPOKANE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WELCOMES PASSENGERS OF SOUTHWEST AIRLINES' INAUGURAL NONSTOP FLIGHT TO CHICAGO'S MIDWAY AIRPORT

(Spokane, WA) – Spokane International Airport (GEG) welcomes the passengers of Southwest Airlines' first non-stop flight to Chicago's Midway International Airport this Sunday, June 2, 2013. At the gate, just prior to their 12:45pm departure, the passengers on the inaugural flight will experience the sights and sounds of Chicago before embarking on the first non-stop flight.

The travelers will enjoy a slice of a deep dish "Chicago" style pizza and hear live jazz music from local artists Nicholas Schauer and Charles Swanson. In the spirit of the occasion, Southwest Airlines employees will be dressed in Blues Brothers hats and glasses as they prepare for boarding. Sporting their own pair of Blues Brothers' shades, passengers may have their photo taken in front of a Chicago skyline backdrop before departing on the Boeing 737-700.

After pushing back from the gate, Spokane International Airport's Aircraft Rescue Firefighting Department will position their equipment on either side of the aircraft and form a water arch for the aircraft to taxi under, which is a traditional send-off to commemorate inaugural flights.

The new daily nonstop service is scheduled to operate seasonally through the summer months and conclude September 7, 2013. Southwest Airlines has served the Spokane-Coeur d'Alene Region since 1994 and also provides daily service to Boise, Denver, Las Vegas, Oakland, and Phoenix.

Southwest Airlines Spokane/ Chicago Round Trip Flight Schedule:
- 10:25 A.M. CT Departs Chicago Midway/Arrives Spokane International 12:10 P.M. PT
- 12:45 P.M. PT Departs Spokane/Arrives Chicago Midway 6:05 P.M. CT

Note: Members of the press should contact Todd Woodard at todd.woodard@spokaneairports.net or 509-998-7265 to secure a gate pass that will allow them to be screened at the passenger security checkpoint and attend the event being held adjacent to Gate A15.

###