34th Annual William A. Patterson Transportation Lecture
Monday, April 20, 2015

Doug Parker
Chief Executive Officer
American Airlines
About William A. Patterson

A central figure in the United States air transport industry for more than four decades, William A. “Pat” Patterson served as president and chairman of United Airlines from 1934 until his retirement in 1966. He was a life trustee of Northwestern University and was instrumental in the establishment and strategic leadership of the Northwestern University Transportation Center.

In his honor, Northwestern established the William A. Patterson Distinguished Chair in Transportation in 1978. The Patterson Chair serves as an intellectual focal point for transportation research and education at Northwestern, most of which is coordinated through the NUTC.

Support for the Patterson Chair comes from the Patterson Endowment, which is funded by more than sixty corporate contributions and 1,200 individual donors. This endowment helps fund the activities of the Patterson Chair, including a distinguished transportation professorship and the Patterson Transportation Lecture, held annually since 1980.

About NUTC

The Northwestern University Transportation Center is one of the world’s leading interdisciplinary education and research institutions, serving industry, government, and the public. Founded in 1954 to make substantive and enduring contributions to the movement of materials, people, energy, and information, the NUTC stands at the forefront of transportation research and education, bringing together academic researchers, students, and business affiliates in open exploration of transportation and supply chain operations. In so doing, the Center aims to influence national and international transportation policy, management, operations, and technological developments, with the goal of making transportation and supply chain operations more productive, efficient, safe, secure, environmentally friendly, and socially beneficial.

Previously, Parker was chairman and CEO of US Airways. Prior to the merger of US Airways and America West Airlines in 2005, he was chairman, president, and chief executive officer of America West. Parker became the CEO at America West just 10 days before Sept. 11, 2001, and led the carrier through the crisis.

Under Parker’s leadership, US Airways achieved record revenue growth and operational performance and profit margins that outpaced most industry peers. Parker has been one of the most vocal proponents of airline industry consolidation, which has provided a more stable and competitive industry for employees, customers, communities and stockholders.

Parker’s experience prior to joining America West in 1995 includes four years with Northwest Airlines as vice president & assistant treasurer and vice president of financial planning and analysis. From 1986 to 1991, he held a number of financial management positions with American Airlines.

Parker received a Bachelor of Arts in economics from Albion College in 1984 and a Master of Business Administration from Vanderbilt University in 1986.
Distinguished Patterson Lecturers

2014 Chris Lofgren
Schneider

2013 Irwin M. Jacobs, Ph.D.
Qualcomm

2012 Alan Mulally
Ford Motor Company

2011 Jeff Smisek
United Airlines

2010 Craig Philip, Ph.D.
Ingram Barge Company

2009 Scott McCallum
Aidmatrix Foundation, Inc.

2008 Matthew K. Rose
BNSF Railway

2007 Mark V. Rosenker
National Transportation Safety Board

2006 Peter D. McDonald
United Airlines

2005 Lawrence D. Burns
General Motors Corporation

2004 Michael L. Eskew
United Parcel Service, Inc.

2003 David Neeleman
JetBlue Airways

2002 Norman Y. Mineta
U.S. Dept. of Transportation

2001 Donald Schneider
Schneider National, Inc.

2000 Frederick W. Smith
FedEx Corporation

1999 Robert Krebs
Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway

1998 Lua Cheng Eng
Neptune Orient Lines, Ltd.

1997 Herb Kelleher
Southwest Airline Co.

1996 John Welsby
British Railways

1995 William “Gus” Pagonis
Sears, Roebuck and Co.

1994 Karel Van Miert
European Union

1993 Robert Herman, Ph.D.
University of Texas at Austin

1992 J.B. Hunt
J.B. Hunt Transport, Inc.

1991 Heinz Ruhnau
Lufthansa German Airlines

1990 Donald K. “Deke” Slayton
Space Services Inc. of America

1989 Sir Colin Marshall
British Airways

1988 William W. Winpisinger
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

1987 Frank Lorenzo
Texas Air Corporation

1986 Robert L. Crandall
AMR Corporation, American Airlines

1985 Marvin L. Manheim
Northwestern University

1984 Daryl Wyckoff, Ph.D.
Harvard University

1982 Alfred E. Kahn
Cornell University

1980 Richard J. Ferris
United Airlines, Inc.