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Southwest Airlines Demonstrates Continued Commitment To Equality By Earning Top Marks In 2018 Corporate Equality Index

For the third consecutive year, Southwest Airlines earns 100 percent on Human Rights Campaign Foundation's 16th Annual Scorecard on LGBTQ Workplace Equality

DALLAS, Nov. 9, 2017 /PRNewswire/ -- [Southwest Airlines Co.](#) (NYSE: LUV) proudly announced that it received a perfect score of 100 percent on the 2018 Corporate Equality Index (CEI), a national benchmarking survey and report on corporate policies and practices related to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) workplace equality, administered by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation. Southwest Airlines joins the ranks of more than 600 major U.S. businesses that also earned top marks this year. This is Southwest's third consecutive year with a rating of 100 percent.

"Southwest Airlines is proud to be recognized for our continued commitment to equality by being named as a Best Place to Work for LGBTQ Equality by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation for the third year in a row," said Ellen Torbert, Southwest Airlines' Vice President Diversity and Inclusion. "At Southwest Airlines, we put People first, and we're proud to have a work environment where our Employees can come as they are and have their unique perspectives celebrated."

The 2018 CEI rated businesses in the report, which evaluates LGBTQ-related policies and practices including non-discrimination workplace protections, domestic partner benefits, transgender-inclusive health care benefits, competency programs and public engagement with the LGBTQ community. Southwest Airlines' efforts in satisfying all of the CEI's criteria results in a 100 percent ranking and the designation as a Best Place to Work for LGBTQ Equality.

To learn about how Southwest Airlines gives back to the LGBTQ community, visit [Southwest.com](#).

ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN FOUNDATION

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation is the educational arm of America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people. HRC envisions a world where LGBTQ people are embraced as full members of society at home, at work and in every community.

ABOUT SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO.

In its 47th year of service, Dallas-based [Southwest Airlines Co.](#) (NYSE: LUV) continues to differentiate itself from other air carriers with exemplary Customer Service delivered by more than 55,000 Employees to a Customer base topping 115 million passengers annually, in recent years. Southwest became the nation's largest domestic air carrier in 2003 and maintains that ranking based on the U.S. Department of Transportation's most recent reporting of domestic originating passengers boarded. During peak travel seasons, Southwest operates more than 4,000 weekday departures among a network of 100 destinations in the United States and 10 additional countries. Southwest has announced its intention to sell tickets in 2018 for service to Hawaii, subject to requisite governmental approvals.

Southwest coined [Transfarency](#)[®] to describe its purposed philosophy of treating Customers honestly and fairly, and low fares actually staying low. Southwest is the only major U.S. airline to offer bags fly free[®] to everyone (first and second checked pieces of luggage, size and weight limits apply, some carriers offer free checked bags on select routes or in qualified circumstances), and there are no change fees, though fare differences might apply.

As launch customer of the Boeing 737 MAX 8 in North America, the Company operates the largest fleet in the world of Boeing aircraft, all of which are equipped with satellite-based WiFi. Customers who connect to the WiFi network may use their personal devices to view on-demand movies and television shows, as well as nearly 20 channels of free, live TV.

With a bold new look first unveiled in 2014, Southwest is progressing through a multi-year refresh of its fleet to showcase the carrier's *Heart*: a new logo, aircraft livery, interior design featuring new seats, Employee-designed uniforms, and an updated airport experience, all of which showcase a dedication of Southwest Employees to connect Customers with what's important in their lives.

From its first flights on June 18, 1971, Southwest Airlines launched an era of unprecedented affordability in air travel described by the U.S. Department of Transportation as "The Southwest Effect," a lowering of fares and increase in passenger traffic wherever the carrier serves. With 44 consecutive years of profitability, Southwest is one of the most honored airlines in the world, known for a triple bottom line approach that contributes to the carrier's performance and productivity, the importance of its People and the communities they serve, and an overall commitment to efficiency and the planet. The 2016 Southwest Airlines One Report[™] can be found at [SouthwestOneReport.com](#).

Book Southwest Airlines' low fares online at [Southwest.com](#) or by phone at 800-I-FLY-SWA.

View original content: <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/southwest-airlines-demonstrates-continued-commitment-to-equality-by-earning-top-marks-in-2018-corporate-equality-index-300553259.html>

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