

# Meridian Booster

LLOYDMINSTER

## Life-saving air traffic controller honoured; Local hero nets international award

Lloydminster Meridian Booster

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An international safety award has gone to Lloydminster Airport employee David Longman for his part in helping an 18-passenger plane avoid a potential crash.



Photo Submitted - David Longman is congratulated by NavCanada president John Crichton at the ATCA awards ceremony.

The Washington-based Air Traffic Control Association presented the 21-year-old flight service specialist with the Air Traffic Control Specialist of the Year award.

Longman was working the radio position as a Central Mountain Air flight was set to take off on the departure runway. There was lightning and heavy rain in the area. With the plane already hundreds of yards down the runway, Longman noticed a dangerous tailwind "microburst" and quickly alerted the captain of the aircraft.

Tailwinds began gusting to 40 knots (more than 70 kilometres per hour) the captain managed to abort the takeoff with seconds to spare.

"David's swift and decisive action exemplifies the dedication and commitment to safety," said Rudy Kellar, vice president of operations at Nav Canada. "David is a skilled and dedicated flight service specialist who, at a young age, is already living the values of this important group of aviation professionals."

In addition to the award Longman received in Washington, he also got a letter of commendation from the plane's captain, and the Chairman's Award for Employee Excellence in the category of safety from Nav Canada.

Longman had been at the job for just under a year at the time of the incident, both of his parents work in the air traffic service industry.