



## President's Award Winner Stephen Rockey

Piedmont Ground Handling



**Nomination:** It is with great pride and unwavering confidence that I nominate Stephen “Rockey” Rockey for Piedmont’s highest honor—the Piedmont President’s Award. Stephen epitomizes the values of Caring, Compliance, Communication, and Community, and his daily commitment to excellence has left an enduring mark not only on his home station but also on numerous spoke cities across the Piedmont network. Rockey is a leader among leaders—a trusted subject matter expert in all facets of ground handling operations. His reputation precedes him as someone who not only understands the complex mechanics of our operation but knows how to lead people through change with poise, purpose, and precision. Over the past several years, Rockey has been instrumental in ensuring smooth transitions in several key stations. Acting as the interim General Manager during times of change, he has repeatedly demonstrated an exceptional ability to assess operational needs quickly, implement practices that drive safety and reliability, and establish a culture of accountability and trust—all while delivering cost-effective solutions. By stepping in during these transitions, Rockey has helped reduce the need for extensive TDY and additional managerial support, saving the company critical resources while simultaneously setting up new leadership for long-term success. His efforts directly

contribute to Piedmont's strategic objectives—enhancing profitability, reliability, and accountability across our network. Rockey's leadership at his home station is equally impressive. His team of supervisors and agents operates at a consistently high level of performance, even in his absence. This is a true testament to the culture of excellence, empowerment, and responsibility he has built. Rockey's ability to lead from afar while maintaining performance standards is rare and reflects his commitment to developing people, not just managing them. He is frequently called upon to serve as the acting Regional Manager, a responsibility he handles with professionalism, vision, and care. His reliability in these moments provides stability across the region and reassures both his peers and senior leadership that operations will continue smoothly and with excellence.

Rockey's influence is also reflected in the recognition his stations have received. Under his guidance, his station has been awarded the American Airlines Customer Cup multiple times, a reflection of operational excellence and outstanding customer service. His leadership during a high-profile event in a station where he has served as Ramp Manager for the last five years is yet another example of his ability to collaborate cross-functionally, scale operations, and maintain safety during high-pressure events. His work has been instrumental in managing the growth of flight operations while maximizing revenue potential. Rockey's colleagues frequently praise his approachable leadership style, strategic mindset, and unwavering integrity. He is often the first to arrive, the last to leave, and never hesitates to roll up his sleeves when needed. His leadership style—firm yet compassionate—has earned him deep respect from agents, supervisors, and fellow GMs alike. Here's what a few have said:

"He makes people feel valued. You want to work hard for him—not because you have to, but because you want to."

"Rockey is tough but fair. He leads with his heart, listens to us, and always has a plan to move us forward."

"He really is great. Don't tell him I said that!"

Beyond the ramp, Rockey is a committed community servant. He hosts an annual community service event that sees high levels of employee participation - another reflection of the respect and loyalty he inspires in his team. He also travels to support community efforts in other stations, reminding us all that Piedmont's mission extends beyond airports and into the heart of every community we serve. Stephen Rockey doesn't just fill a role - he elevates it. His leadership style, dedication to operational excellence, and commitment to people development create a ripple effect wherever he goes. He is a living example of Piedmont's values in action, and the impact of his work is not only measurable in metrics, cost savings, and awards—it's deeply felt in the morale, success, and growth of every station he touches. For all these reasons and more, I wholeheartedly nominate Stephen "Rockey" Rockey for the Piedmont President's Award. He is more than deserving - he is the embodiment of what this award represents.

