FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 27, 2018

American Airlines to Host Travel Rehearsal Event for Families
with Special Needs Children

NEW ORLEANS – On Saturday, April 28, 2018 from 6 p.m. until 8:30 p.m., the American Airlines Abilities Employee Business Resource Group, in collaboration with the HollyRod Foundation and AT&T, will host a travel rehearsal event at the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY), 900 Airline Drive, Kenner, LA. This event is specifically designed for families who have a child with Autism, intellectual or developmental disabilities to familiarize them with traveling by air by providing a realistic opportunity for families to practice the air travel experience.

Families will get a chance to experience air travel from start to finish. All participants will enter the airport, obtain boarding passes, go through security and board the plane. The airplane will taxi on the airfield and then return to the gate to deplane.

Director of Aviation for Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport Kevin Dolliole said “We would like to extend a big thank you to American Airlines for providing this important community event for families with children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Air travel can be stressful for anyone, and being able to familiarize yourself with the experience is very valuable for these families in particular.”

This event is complimentary and is limited to the first 130 participants that register. Family members who would normally travel with your child are welcome to participate.

Participants are encouraged to bring any items that their child would normally take on a flight to help ensure a successful experience (i.e. IPAD’s, talkers, service dogs, sensory items, blankets, ear plugs, headphones, books, etc.).

Anyone wishing to participate in the event should register at https://goo.gl/forms/NXI1D38vaKtO1ONe2. When registering, participants should include the number of adults, the number of children, and the names, gender, and date of birth of all attending. This information is needed for TSA clearance. All TSA rules will apply for this event and all adults should bring their government-issued I.D. to clear security.

For questions, email Bruce Sickler at Bruce.Sickler@aa.com.

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About Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport:
Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY) is the primary commercial airport in the State of Louisiana serving over 80% of all passengers flying into the state. Armstrong International Airport is
owned by the City of New Orleans. The New Orleans Aviation Board (NOAB), an unattached board of the City of New Orleans, oversees the administration, operation, and maintenance of Armstrong International. The Airport has 15 airlines providing service to 56 nonstop destinations, including six international destinations. A new world-class terminal complex is currently being constructed. The new North Terminal will be complete by February 2019. For more information, please visit www.flymsy.com.