## **Chason Runkle, AEM**

# **Emergency Operations Manager, City and County of Denver**

## **Speaker Bio:**

I grew up in Tallahassee, Florida where I received my bachelor's degree in professional Aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. My wife and I, drawn to the life of the Colorado adventure, moved to Denver 12 years ago. It was then I started my career at Denver International Airport, where I initially worked in the Communications Center before transitioning to various roles within airport operations. These roles included: Assistant Aviation Operations Manager, Ramp Tower Controller, and my current position, Emergency Operations Manager. I have demonstrated leadership in crisis management and specialize in emergency planning, developing comprehensive plans for various hazards including wildland fires and infrastructure recovery. Additionally, I played a key role in the first Denver 5K on the Runway event. I was recently awarded the inaugural DEN CEO Visionary Award for Operational Excellence, which only increases my drive to be a part of new projects, and new initiatives to better the airport. My wife and I are continuing to enjoy our Colorado adventure, now enriched by our two lively toddlers who bring endless energy and entertainment to our household.

### **Presentation Title:**

# **Jump to Opportunities, Not Conclusions**

The thought of changing career paths and changing one's thoughts sounds intimidating. Yet, the acts of realization are far simpler than overcoming the internal obstacles that our minds create. During my career, I found a position that I really wanted, but my mind told me I wasn't smart enough or experienced enough. I concluded that what I wanted was unattainable. Then, despite self-doubt, I jumped at an opportunity. What happens when you jump to opportunities, not conclusions?