



FLIGHT TRAINING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

2014

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HOW MUCH AN INSTRUCTOR FLIES, how much he makes, how many hours he has—these are things that are irrelevant. The only factor that truly matters in flight instruction is what the student—the customer—thinks and if the student is successful in reaching his or her goals.

With that in mind we asked students around the country what they thought of their flight training experience. What follows is the best flight training providers in the country, as measured by their students. Flight schools of every size, shape, and location are featured, as are all types of flight instructors, from independent professionals who teach on the weekend to chief instructors at highly respected and busy schools. These are the winners of AOPA's 2014 *Flight Training Excellence Awards*.

Awards are given in two major categories: flight schools and flight instructors. Students were asked to rate their training provider on a number of different factors, including topics such as use of a syllabus and perception of value. The questions were based directly on AOPA's research into the ideal flight training experience, which revealed dozens of factors that create a good training program.

The results were tallied and winners were divided into three levels: Honor Roll, Outstanding School or Instructor, and Best Flight School and Flight Instructor in the country. Winners in the Best category scored the highest, Outstanding winners were in the top 20 percent, and Honor Roll schools and instructors scored in the top 30 percent.

In short, these training providers give their students the best chance of success.

On the following pages you'll find a breakdown of the poll results, including what schools and instructors are collectively doing really well and not so great, profiles of the Best Flight School and Best Flight Instructor, and, finally, a full list of winners.

Congratulations to all the schools and instructors, and be on the lookout for the 2015 poll to be released mid-year.



FLIGHT SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

Above All Aviation (SBA)
AFI Flight Training Center (FUL)
All American Aviation Services (FAY)
Alpha Zulu (SGS)
Aspen Flying Club (APA)
ATP (APA, OGD, RYY)
Aviation Facilities Institute (FUL)
Aviation Adventures (HEF, JYO, HWY, RMN)
Centennial Flight Academy (PDK)
Century Air Flight Academy (CDW)
Channel Islands Aviation (CMA)
Chickasha Wings inc. (CHK)
Cirrus Aviation (SRQ)
Diamond Flight Center of Spanish Fork, Utah (U77)
Dream Flight School (DMW)
East Coast Aero Club (ECAC) (OWD)
East Hill Flying Club (ITH)
Engery Aviation (IPT)
First Landings Aviation (Xo4)
FL Aviation Center (TLH)
Flight Training Professionals (ORL)
Fly By Knight (HDC)
Girls In Flight Training (GIFT) Academy (Fos)
Glass Cockpit Aviation (BOI)
Great Plains Enterprises (I66)
Greenville Aviation (GMU)
Hampton Airfield Ground School (7B3)
Hixson Aviation (1Ao)
Hub City Aviation (LBB)
Independence Aviation (APA)
Inflight Pilot Training (FCM)
Jackson Air Service (TRM)
JetEXE Aviation (SAC)
LeTourneau University (GGG)
Lunken Flight Training Center (LUK)
Montgomery Flight Training (Eagle Flyers) (TYQ)
Nassau Flyers (FRG)
New Horizons Aviation (RDG)
Ocean City Aviation (OXB)
Orlandi Flight Center (1N7)
Peak Aviation Center (COS)
Pinnacle Aviation Academy (CRQ)
Rainier Flight Service (RNT)

Riverside Flight Academy (RAL)
San Carlos Flight Center (SQL)
Skybound Aviation (PDK)
Slipstream Aviation (RBD)
Spencer Aviation (DLZ)
Sporty's Academy (I69)
Summit Aviation (BZN)
Superior Flight School Inc. (RYY)
Tailwheels Etc. (LAL)
The Flight School, Inc. (EYQ)
Tom Wood Aviation (UMP)
Total Flight Solutions (LHZ)
University of North Dakota John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences (GFK)
Universal Flight Training (SRQ)
University of Dubuque (DBQ)
Ventura Flight Training (FRG)
Warsaw Flying Club (ASW)
Wings of Carolina Flying Club (TTA)
Wyoming Valley Aviation (WBW)

FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR HONOR ROLL

Samer Abdallah (HEF)
William (Bill) Allen (ORH)
Patti Andrews (PAO)
Nathan Bagge (HWY)
Thomas Bailey (MIC)
Kevin Baird (OWD)
Sue Ballew (PAO)
Peg Ballou (17G)
Rohan Bhatia (PDK)
John Calabro (BED)
Bob Casian (7B3)
Matt Collins (RYY)
Patrick Corrigan (SBA)
Raymond de Haan (JYO)
Chris Dupin (BED)
Dan Dyer (SQL)
Michael Fountain (SBA)
Pat Gaston (TYQ)
Michael Gilbert (JYO)
Katrina Gilson (FUL)
Jason Grafel (BZN)

Nathan Grupenhof (LUK)
Juan Guardado (RBD)
David Hall (IPT)
Adam Hammond (F45)
David Hoover (I66)
Matthew Huisenga (FUL)
Kevin Hyberger (SQL)
Diana Jemsom (YSYN)
David Keran (JYO)
Elias Kontanis (HEF)
Keir Kucera (HWY)
Michael Malnoske (JNX)
Cindy Massey (PDK)
Alex Minium (IPT)
Alexander Mitchell (BZN)
Brigitte Moesta (BED)
Michael Moholt (BZN)
Barry Morris (SAC)
Ronney Moss (TTA)
Scott Mourhess (TRM)
Tim Nelson (BED, OWD)
John Nutt (BED)
Geoffrey Orlandi (1N7)
Matt Osterhaus (DBQ)
Jim Payne (AHN)
Josh Podlich (FMY)
Taylor Price (HEF)
Ethan Putch (DLZ)
Cason Romano (HEF)
Mike Schenke (LUK)
Craig Schmidt (MIC)
Mike Schwahn (BZN)
Mike Schwartz (JYO)
Steele Scott (TTA)
Filipe Silva (Xo4)
Janice Sullivan (BFL)
Michael Trevillian (TTA)
Brent Tuchler (HEF)
Fred Webster (BFL)
David Wertz (EMT)
Jeffrey Wolf (FMY)
William Woodberry (BFL)