



**FLIGHT TRAINING
EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

2016

FLIGHT TRAINING EXPERIENCES COME IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES.

But whether you learn from an independent instructor in a classic taildragger or in an academic setting flying technically advanced aircraft, your success will be in large part because of the person in the right seat next to you.

A great instructor and a positive flight training environment can make the difference between becoming a pilot and walking away. So we asked students around the country what they thought of their flight training experience. 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. What follows is the best flight training providers in the country, as measured by their students. These are the winners of AOPA's fifth annual *Flight Training Excellence Awards*.

The *Flight Training Excellence Awards* are one of the initiatives under You Can Fly, AOPA's umbrella program to make flying more accessible and affordable. Awards are given in two major categories: flight schools and flight instructors. The Flight Training Poll measured the performance of flight training providers based on four key factors identified by AOPA's research into the optimal flight training experience: educational quality, customer focus, community, and information sharing. The results were tallied and winners were divided into three levels: Honor Roll, Outstanding School or Instructor, and Best Flight School and Best Flight Instructor in the country.

On the following pages you'll see how the Best Flight Instructor and Best Flight School of 2016 help their students succeed, as well as a full list of winners. Congratulations to all the schools and instructors, and be on the lookout for the 2017 poll, which will be released midyear.

AWARDS RECIPIENTS



FLIGHT SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

Advanced Helicopter Concepts (FDK)
AeroDynamic Aviation-Monterey (MRV)
Air Fleet Training Systems (CDW)
AIR Ventures Flying School (SFZ)
Aspen Flying Club (APA)
AV-ED Flight School-Leesburg (JYO)
Aviation Adventures (JYO, HEF, HWY, RMN)
Aviation Facilities Inc. (FUL)
Bakersfield Flying Club Inc. (BFL)
Beaver Valley Aviation (I73)
Blue Line Aviation LLC (JNX)
Blue Line Aviation LLC (RDU)
Blue Skies Flying Services & Pilot Shop (3CK)
Chesapeake Sport Pilot LLC (W29)
Drake Aviation Company (PTK)
Eagle Aircraft (VPZ)
East Coast Aero Club (ASH, BED, OWD)
Elite Flight Training (SDL)
Energy Aviation (IPT)
Executive Flyers Aviation Inc. (BED)
 Fargo Jet Center Inc. (FAR)
FCA Flight Center (FIT)
FL Aviation Center (TLH)
Flight Academy of New Orleans (NEW)
Flying Panthers Flight School Inc. (MCC)
Gateway Aviation Inc. (XLL)
Glass Cockpit Aviation (BOI)
Independence Aviation LLC (APA)
Inflight Pilot Training (FCM)
Jetex Aviation Corporation (SAC)
Jetstream Aviation, Inc. (BOI)
JLS Aviation LLC (EZF)
Konect Aviation Oregon LLC (MMV)
Latitude Aviation (COE)
Murfreesboro Aviation (MBT)
Nashville Flight Training (BNA)
Nassau Flyers (FRG)
Northway Aviation (PAE)
Orlandi Flight Center (1N7)
Palm Beach Helicopters (LNA)
Potomac Flight Training (JYO)
Purdue Aviation LLC (LAF)
Riverside Flight Academy (RAL)
Rocky Mountain Flight School (BJC)
San Carlos Flight Center (SQL)
Sierra Charlie Aviation (SDL)
Skybound Aviation LLC (PDK)
Slipstream Aviation (RBD)
South Atlanta Flight Training (4A7)
Southern Maine Aviation LLC (SFM)
Spencer Aviation Inc. (DLZ)
St. Charles Flying Service (SET)
Superior Flight School Inc. (RYY)
Sweet Aviation (SMD)
Texas Flight (DWH)
Total Flight Solutions (LHZ)
Trade Winds Aviation (RHV)

Created to recognize the instructors and schools who are providing excellent service to their customers. Honor roll schools are among the top 3 percent in the nation and instructors are in the top 1 percent.

Weltzien Skypark Flight School (15G)
Western Air Flight Academy (BJC)
Wings of Carolina Flying Club (TTA)
Wisconsin Aviation-Dodge County (UNU)

FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR HONOR ROLL

Jim Ader (UGN)
Jeffrey Anderson (UNU)
Douglas Auclair (SFZ)
Sue Ballew (PAO, SQL)
Amy Bellesheim (PAE)
Mike Biewenga (3CK)
Jordan Brown (FMY)
Gavin Cresswell (FMY)
Raymond De Haan (JYO)
Brian Eliot (SQL)
Jim Fellers (3CK)
Kelby Ferwerda (5M3, NH69)
Christopher Freeze (OAK)
Kelli Graham (APA)
Branden Graves (APA)
Dave Hall (IPT, SEG)
Robert Hepp (HEF)
David Hoover (I66)
William Jones (JYO)
Adam Kelly (SQL)
Jeffrey Kling (LVJ)
Joe Kuberka (8S1)
Nick Loftus (SET)
Barry Loomis (LNA)
Cindy Massey (PDK)
Miles McKinney (RBD)
Jonathan McTaggart (FMY)
Daniel Miller (JYO)
Takanori Mitsui (ASH)
Kelsey Mulloy (FMY)
Jay Nabor (TTA)
Geoffrey Orlandi (1N7)
Dimitris Partafyllas (GMU)
Gregory Patchel (C89, RAC, UGN)
Jamie Patterson-Simes (MRI)
Mischa Porter (RBD)
Justice Pousson (FMY)
Jim Powell (FIT)
Jeff Reeder (SQL)
Scott Scherbing (FFC)
John Selby (LRO)
Mounir Sibli (ADS)
Jim Stover (EZF)
Erik Thresher (LHZ)
Craig Ulrich (S30)
Paul Van Brunt (LVN)
Randall Walliser (SQL)
Devan Wiebe (6B6)
Ryan Willkomm (FMY)
William Woodbury (BFL)