



In the sometimes overwhelming experience of learning to fly, flight instructors and flight schools are your guides. The best not only train capable aviators, but also set the tone for their students' entire aviation experience. Quality instruction, customer focus, a strong sense of community, and transparency about the flight training process can mean the difference between deferring a dream and pressing on to become a pilot.

In the pages that follow, you'll meet flight training providers who take struggling students and train them to exacting standards, and who see potential their students didn't even see in themselves. These are the best flight training providers in the country, as measured by their students. These are the winners of AOPA's Flight Training Experience Awards.

The AOPA Flight Training Experience Survey and Awards are part of the You Can Fly program, a set of initiatives designed to get people flying and keep them flying. Winners are chosen based on feedback from thousands of students in a survey based on AOPA's extensive research into the optimal flight training experience.

Awards are granted in two categories: flight instructor and flight school. High-scoring flight training providers are recognized as distinguished schools and instructors, and regional winners were selected for each category in each of five regions. The National Best Flight School and National Best Flight Instructor were selected from the regional winners. Congratulations to all the schools and instructors, and be on the lookout for the 2018 poll, which will be released later this year.



## DISTINGUISHED FLIGHT SCHOOLS BY REGION

### NORTHEAST

AeroVenture Flight Center (IB9)  
Air Fleet Training Systems (CDW)  
American Flyers (MMU)  
Big Sky Aviation (MIV)  
Bravo Flight Training (FDK)  
Chesapeake Sport Pilot LLC (W29)  
Energy Aviation (IPT)  
FCA Flight Center (FIT)  
Harford Air Services (OW3)  
Orlandi Flight Center (IN7)  
Premier Flight Center LLC (HFD)  
Smoketown Helicopters (S37)  
Somerset Air Service (SMQ)  
Southern Maine Aviation LLC (SFM)  
Valley Aviation Inc. (WBW)

### SOUTHEAST

American Flyers (PMP)  
APS Flight School (HWY)  
ATP Flight School (LZU, DAB)  
AV-ED Flight School-Leesburg (JYO)  
Aviation Adventures (JYO, HEF, HWY, RMN)  
Centennial Aviation Academy (PDK)  
Cherokee Flight (CNI)  
Cirrus Aviation (SRQ)  
Curtis Eads Flight School (PVG)  
Dominion Aviation Services Inc. (FCI)  
Dragonfly Aviation (WDR)  
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (DAB)  
First Landings Aviation (X04)

Flight Training Professionals (ORL)  
Harmony Air (JWN)  
Holladay Aviation (CRG)  
ICON Flight Training Center (TPF)  
JLS Aviation LLC (EZF)  
KingSky Flight Academy (LAL)  
Murfreesboro Aviation (MBT)  
Nashville Flight Training (BNA)  
OpenAir Flight Training (JYO)  
Palm Beach Helicopters (LNA)  
Paragon Flight Training (FMY)  
Pilot Training Center Homestead (X51)  
Potomac Flight Training (JYO)  
Sterling Flight Training (CRG)  
Stratos Aviation (GMU)  
Sunrise Aviation (VQQ)  
Superior Flight School Inc. (RYY)  
WaterWings Seaplane School (EET)  
Wayman Aviation Academy (OPF, HWO)  
Wings of Carolina Flying Club (TTA)

### MIDWEST

Avel Flight School (DPA)  
Crosswinds Aviation (OZW)  
DCT Aviation LLC (PTK)  
Illinois Aviation Academy (DPA)  
Skill Aviation (UGN)  
Sporty's Academy (I69)  
St. Charles Flying Service (SET)  
Warsaw Flying Club (ASW)

Windy City Flyers Inc. (PWK)  
Wisconsin Aviation-Dodge County (UNU)

### SOUTHWEST

Brazos Valley Flight Services (CLL)  
Destinations EFC LLC (RVS)  
Fox Aviation International Inc. (16X)  
Sierra Charlie Aviation (SDL)  
Slipstream Aviation (RBD)  
Soaring Club of Houston (89TA)  
The Flight School Inc. (EYQ)  
US Sport Aircraft (ADS)

### WEST

Above All Aviation (SBA)  
AeroDynamic Aviation—San Jose (RHV)  
Aviation Facilities Inc. (FUL)  
Bakersfield Flying Club Inc. (BFL)  
CP Aviation (SZP)  
Du Bois Aviation (CNO)  
Executive Flight Institute (F70)  
ICON Flight Training Center (VCB)  
Latitude Aviation (COE)  
McAir Aviation (BJC)  
Northway Aviation (PAE)  
Rocky Mountain Flight Training Center (COS)  
San Carlos Flight Center (SQL)  
West Valley Flying Club (PAO)  
Western Air Flight Academy (BJC)  
WINGS Flight School (VCB)



## DISTINGUISHED FLIGHT INSTRUCTORS BY REGION

### NORTHEAST

William Allen (IB9)  
Infazal Baksh (SCH, BGR, BMX)  
David Burton (MIV)  
David Hall (IPT)  
Aaron Harrington (OW3)  
Kyle Lacey (CDW)  
Domenic Lafauci (EWB)  
Harrison Martin (IPT)  
Geoffrey Orlandi (IN7)  
Jim Powell (FIT)  
Ronald Semanski (WBW)  
Brenda Tibbs (FDK)

### SOUTHEAST

Maggie Broman (ORL)  
Ed Cominsky (ORL)  
Chuck Copley (HXD, AVP)  
Raymond De Haan (HEF, JYO)

Bob Garity (JYO)  
Ross Garoniak (ORL)  
Bob Hepp (HEF, TTA)  
David Herwig (2GC)  
Todd Houchins (75FL, ECP)  
Sarina Houston (TTA)  
James Austin Kaminski (HEF)  
Veronica Ko (HWY)  
Jonathan Kotwicki (VNC)  
Barry Loomis (LNA)  
Daniel Miller (JYO)  
Jay Nabors (TTA)  
Anh-Thu Nguyen (PDK)  
Rajiv Nowbutt (LNA)  
Dimitri Partafyllas (GMU)  
Jason Schappert (X60)  
Todd Shellnutt (LZU)  
Jim Stover (EZF)  
Gary Sumner (DKX)

David Thomspon (LZU)  
Jack Tunstill (SPG)  
Giacomo Ventimiglia (ORL)  
Charles Welden (EET)  
Truman Whiting (PHF)

### MIDWEST

Jim Ader (UGN)  
Jeff Anderson (UNU)  
Peg Ballou (17G)  
Mike Biewenga (3CK)  
Andrew Dow (UIN)  
Nick Loftus (SET)  
Scott Malcolm (DPA)  
Greg Patchel (RAC)  
Joe Standley (3CK)  
Mike Williams (MHK)  
Joseph Zubay (C81)

### SOUTHWEST

Tom DeYoung (SDL)  
Norman Rathje (76F)  
Russ Roslewski (PWA)

### WEST

Susan Ballew (PAO)  
Mark Erwin (PAO)  
Kelli Graham (APA)  
Mark King (SZP)  
Marc Lee (SNA)  
Anissa Mohler (RHV)  
Jamie Patterson-Simes (PAMR)  
Adam Peterson (BFL)  
Christilyn Repp (VCB)  
Robert Spitzer (BFI)  
David Wertz (EMT)  
William Woodbury (BFL)