

THE HOLD SHORT

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08AUG - 15AUG

THE DREAM OF AVIATION: BEYOND THE COCKPIT

When most people picture an aviation career, they imagine the pilot's seat — flying airliners across the country or corporate jets to far-off destinations. And while that's an amazing path, the reality is that aviation is a massive industry with countless roles outside the cockpit where holding a pilot certificate can give you an edge and help you make an even bigger impact.

Airport and airline operations managers who understand what's happening on the flight deck can make smarter, safer, and more efficient decisions. Safety inspectors and accident investigators benefit from firsthand flying experience when evaluating procedures and equipment. Aviation insurance specialists with pilot credentials can better assess risk and work directly with clients.

In dispatch and flight planning, a pilot's perspective helps create more accurate, practical plans. In air traffic management and FAA regulatory positions, that insight helps bridge the gap between policy and real-world flying. Even in marketing, sales, and business development for aviation companies, knowing the language, culture, and priorities of pilots can set you apart.

Your training isn't just about flying — it's about understanding how every piece of this complex system fits together. Whether you're managing operations, shaping safety policy, training others, or representing aviation to the public, a pilot's certificate can be your ticket to opportunities you didn't know existed.

In aviation, the runway doesn't end at the cockpit door. Your certificate can take you anywhere — you just have to decide where you want to land.

REMINDERS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

- Need some study buddies? Don't forget about Private Pilot Study Groups on the 1st and 3rd Monday, 6pm-8pm. Instrument Ground School help, those will be the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 6pm-8pm.
- Check the parking map!! Make sure you know where to park your plane when you return.
- 0500 Flights are going away due to impending darkness. If you are already on the schedule, that flight is still good to go, but any additional 0500 flights will need to go through your instructor or the office.



**GIOVANI RODRIGUEZ –
PRIVATE**

Giovani Rodriguez reached a milestone that is the result of true dedication and perseverance, earning his Private Pilot Certificate and officially leveling up from student pilot to captain of his own destiny. This achievement didn't come easy. Between serving in the Air National Guard, pursuing his college degree, working, mentoring other students, and being present for his beautiful family, Gio still found the discipline and drive to log the hours, study the charts, and keep his training on course.

Flight training demands focus, resilience, and the ability to push through turbulence, qualities Gio has shown in abundance. He never let a busy schedule or a challenging lesson keep him grounded. Instead, he kept climbing, one takeoff and one landing at a time, proving that if there's a will, there truly is a runway.

Just last month, we celebrated him as our Pilot of the Month. Now, he's not only met his goal but soared past it, taking his aviation dreams to new altitudes. This is more than a pilot certificate; it's a testament to the power of hard work, sacrifice, and an unwavering commitment to a dream.

A huge congratulations to his CFI, Eric Harned, for his guidance, mentorship, and steady hand in helping Gio navigate this journey.

Gio, your determination inspires all of us. You've earned every bit of this achievement, and we can't wait to see where you fly next.