



*"Aviation Professionals Dedicated to Excellence in Flight Instruction"*

## **Attention Certified Flight Instructors! Here's some good advice on what it takes to find your place in the Airline Industry**

### **Beyond 1500: Why CFIs on the Airline Track Should Get Involved with the Greater St. Louis Aviation Community**

For the past few years, the path from CFI to airline pilot felt more straightforward than ever. Following COVID, demand for pilots skyrocketed, regional carriers hired aggressively, and reaching **1,500 hours** was often the main hurdle to clear. But in 2024 and into 2025, that trend has begun to shift.

**Legacy airlines have started slowing new-hire classes**, citing stabilized staffing and shifting travel trends. That pullback is now trickling down to **low-cost carriers and regional airlines**, many of which have reduced hiring or are placing candidates into holding pools. The once-fluid pipeline from instructor to airline is backing up. Now, having 1,500 hours might not be enough. As the job market tightens, recruiters are becoming more selective, looking for signs of professionalism, leadership, and involvement beyond the logbook.

That's where **engaging with your local aviation community**—and specifically the **Greater St. Louis Flight Instructors Association (GSLFIA)**—can make a real difference.

#### **Stand Out by Stepping Up**

Getting involved with GSLFIA shows you're more than just a time-builder. It demonstrates initiative, professionalism, and a commitment to safety and education—qualities that airlines look for when hiring. Through GSLFIA, instructors can attend safety seminars, contribute to outreach events, collaborate on flight training initiatives, and connect with mentors and peers from all corners of the industry. These experiences reflect exactly the kind

of well-rounded development that sets candidates apart in a more competitive hiring environment.

You don't need thousands of hours to start getting involved. Whether you're just starting your CFI career or nearing ATP eligibility, joining an active professional network shows you're serious about your future—and gives you opportunities to grow and lead.



#### **The New Hiring Edge**

In a market where fewer seats are opening, CFIs who show they're engaged with the broader industry—not just their logbooks—will stand out. GSLFIA offers a chance to build real relationships, learn from experienced professionals, and gain exposure to the kinds of soft skills and leadership experience that can't be logged in a Hobbs meter.

You've worked hard to build your hours. Now it's time to build your professional presence.

Visit [www.gslfia.com](http://www.gslfia.com) to learn more about how you can get involved.

## 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### GSLFIA Website

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**Greater St. Louis Flight Instructors Association**

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## AVIATION CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

With Air Venture 2025 behind us the most recent Boeing Training Report, as of 22 July, continues to publish the need for Aviation Professionals. The most recent forecasts indicate a need for 2.4 million Aviation Professionals up from 2.3 million in early February 2025. The current Global needs indicate shortages of 660,000 pilots, 710,000 technicians and 1,000,000 new cabin personnel. For North America, shortages include 435,000 Aviation Personnel that consists of 119,000 Pilots, 123,000 Technicians and 193,000 cabin personnel.

Where is the next generation of aviation professionals at today? These are common questions being asked by industry experts. We need to expand our focus to include finding better methods to recruit and educate that group early. STEM programs have great value but nothing matches introducing our youth to aviation than the hands on experiences and mentorships. So take some time and introduce a young person to the things that developed your passion to aviation.

## GLOBAL AEROSPACE SUMMIT LAUNCHES IN SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS AUGUST 13TH & 14TH

Locally, on August 13th and 14th, the Global Aerospace Summit is scheduled to be held at the Regency Conference Center, 400 Regency Park in O'Fallon, Illinois. This event is sponsored by the **Leadership Council of Southwestern Illinois** and is designed to bring industry aerospace leaders and organizations together with facility tours on the 13th to develop a better understanding of what can be accomplished in this area to help expand the work force. On the following day August 14th a career fair will be held.

Visit <https://www.leadershipcouncilswil.com/>  
Or call 618-692-9745

## GREATER ST. LOUIS BUSINESS AVIATION ASSOCIATION PROFESSIONALS OF TOMORROW

If you are considering an aviation career or if you are already engaged in a collegiate program working towards a professional aviation career path, here's an opportunity for you to learn more. The Greater St. Louis Business Aviation Association is expanding and available to students to become part of the GSLBAA Mentor Program. The Mentor program is designed to connect career focused students with industry and opportunities.

We are primarily focused on Business Aviation but also fully support aviation careers that include future Air Carrier Pilots, Aircraft Maintenance Technicians, Avionics Program, Dispatchers etc. Please contact Keith Mueller at 618-222-5683 or Guy Matthews at 636-345-1288 if you are interested in becoming involved with a group focused on becoming a Future Aviation Professional of Tomorrow.

## AIR VENTURE 2025 SETS NEW RECORD

If you had the opportunity to attend Air Venture 2025 this year you might have noticed that the attendance continues to grow larger. For 2025 Air Venture reached new heights. The 2024 record of 686,000 was significantly enlarged to the new 2025 record of 704,000 visitors during the week long event.

Mark your calendars now for Air Venture 2026 July 20 – 26 It will be better than ever!!!!



## SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF AVIATION PROFESSIONALS

Aviation is truly undergoing a major expansion in the St. Louis area. Boeing has received several major contracts for new aircraft construction in St. Louis (Fighter Town) during the recent past that include the Air Force T-7 Redhawk Trainer, MQ 25 unmanned U.S. Navy refueling drone. The award of the F-47 next generation tactical aircraft was recently announced. Rumors continue to flow regarding the replacement of the the current F-18 Super Hornet contract possibly linked to Boeing. Significant growth and expansion at Gulfstream, West Star Aviation and Aviation Materials and Technical Support, A.V.M.A.T.S. plus several more organizations continue to evolve.



The first question arises regarding the needed expansion of the workforce with the required skills. Where is our needed skilled personnel and workforce coming from? Fortunately in the St. Louis area we have a significant number of organizations that are in the process of helping to groom the next generation workforce. St. Louis is home to many youth related aviation organizations. In this area we can identify several. Organizations include, The Civil Air Patrol, Gateway Youth Organization, Wings of Hope Soar into STEM program, Center for Advanced Vocational Education C.A.V.E. in Belleville, Aero Careers, Several EAA Chapters and Southwestern Illinois College Aviation Summer Camp and more!!! The GSLFIA supports these organizations and we want to make them feel welcome at all of the events that we support.

## **GSLFIA “WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO, WHAT DO WE HAVE TO OFFER”**

Our mission statement “The Greater St. Louis Flight Instructors Association promotes aviation safety and improvement of flight instruction by increasing education, instructor knowledge, professionalism and techniques”, is the starting point for who we are, what we do and what we have to offer. To continue with our website “This is accomplished through the exchange of ideas and techniques between instructors, developing effective communications, and/or liaison with the FAA and/or other desirable aviation interested entities. We deliver ideas and techniques by sponsoring the Ed Blue Flight Instructor Scholarship, FAA Safety Clinics, FAA Wings Programs, and FAA approved Flight Instructors Revalidation Clinic and other Seminars”.

There are very few Flight Instructor associations in the US with National Association of Flight Instructors (NAFI), Society of Aviation and Flight Educators (SAFE) and the GSLFIA being the only ones that I know of. So we are a rather unique organization and have been around since the late 1960's with about 100 CFI members, mostly in the St. Louis, Missouri area.

GSLFIA has been putting on Flight Instructor Refresher Clinics since the early 1970's, renewing thousands of CFIs over the last half century. We continue to offer an annual in person FIRC each January, where attendees can discuss issues with other, very experienced CFIs. A typical FIRC will have CFIs with a cumulative experience of 40,000 - 50,000 hours of “dual given”.

The GSLFIA sponsors about 6-10 presentations every year to the St. Louis area's General Aviation community. Topics from CFI techniques, regulatory/AIM changes, specific topics on aircraft care, icing, Loss of Control, discussions with local DPEs on what they see on check rides and how to better prepare our students to be successful on a check ride, We sponsor annual tours of the STL TRACON to give pilots a chance to discuss issues with ATC controllers in order to understand each others' duties and requirements, thus making a much safer environment.

We sponsor “CFI of the Year”, “New CFI of the Year”, Discovery Flights for potential pilots, an “Ed Blue Scholarship” for outstanding CFIs, a “James Byrnes” award for individuals who've greatly contributed to STL area aviation over a long period of time, the “Spirit of St. Louis” award for individuals or corporations who've been instrumental in promoting St. Louis aviation. These awards are traditionally presented in our Awards banquet held at a St. Louis location.

GSLFIA maintains a list of CFIs available to provide almost any kind of flight instruction imaginable to prospective pilots from all of the local STL area airports. Some of our CFIs provide remedial training to those who may need a little extra attention in certain areas.

We enjoy a close relationship with the many aviation businesses and educational institutions in and around St. Louis, such as; Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC), St. Louis University, all of the local flight schools, the various MRO facilities in the area and pilot organizations such as Experimental Aviation Association (EAA), Greater St. Louis Business Aircraft Association (GSLBAA), Women in Aviation International (WAI), etc.

GSLFIA invites you to become associated with our organization to see how we can provide resources to improve your business. Please contact us at 618-514-2647.

Reprint Requested from May 2025 newsletter.

## STL Area Employment Opportunities

At our GSLFIA Board meetings we're always trying to find ways to add value to your membership in St. Louis' only organization specifically for the CFI. I'm not really sure why we didn't come up with this before now, but we're going to begin a column designed to advertise employment opportunities for our members and at the same time provide quality employees for St. Louis area Flight Schools and FBO's. We're in the process of contacting all of those aviation businesses (and hope to add more as we learn of their requirements) to see what their needs are and will publish those needs with every newsletter. The following information opportunities and are the latest and most accurate that were available at the time this newsletter was published and are presented in no particular order. May I please ask you for feedback to see how this is working for you?

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**CURRENTLY HIRING SIMULATOR INSTRUCTORS  
CONTACT KEITH IMMEDIATELY**

IDEAL Aviation CPS  
5600 Vector Drive  
Sauget, Illinois 62206  
Jim Moseley, Chief CFI  
618-215-2282  
[jim.moseley@idealaviationstl.com](mailto:jim.moseley@idealaviationstl.com)

**NOT CURRENTLY HIRING**

St. Louis Flight Training CPS  
2500 Vector Drive  
Cahokia, Illinois 62206  
Josiah Bridges, Owner  
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Gateway Flight Training 1H0  
14301 Creve Coeur Airport Road  
Maryland Heights, Missouri 63146  
Bob Meder, Chief CFI  
314-780-7899  
[robert.meder@gatewayflight.com](mailto:robert.meder@gatewayflight.com)

## HIRING AN AVIONICS TECH

## HIRING A&P W/SHEET METAL EXPERIENCE

**HIRING CESSNA 310R CFIs, 500 hours Multi, 50 hours make & model**

**CONTACT BRIAN BORTON OR BOB MEDER RIGHT AWAY!**

St. Charles Flying Service                      SET  
6016 Portage Road  
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**NOT CURRENTLY HIRING**

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757-652-8008 Cell

**HIRING AN EXPERIENCED A&P/IA**

**CONTACT SCOTT ASAP!**

**THEY ALSO HAVE OPENINGS IN THEIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE!**

Meisinger Aviation                              SUS  
532 Beechcraft Ave.  
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Dave Pressy    Director of Operations  
[jobs@mallcstl.com](mailto:jobs@mallcstl.com)

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School of Aviation  
Transportation Education Center  
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Steven Goetz, Chief CFI and Associate Professor  
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618-453-9247  
[https://www.schooljobs.com/careers/siu?](https://www.schooljobs.com/careers/siu?category[0]=Airports&sort=PositionTitle%7CAscending)  
category[0]=Airports&sort=PositionTitle%7CAscending

**HIRING A&P's, CFIs**

**CONTACT STEVE ASAP!**

Parks College of St. Louis University  
4300 Vector Drive  
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314-977-9554

[https://slu.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/Careers/details/Flight-Instructor-PRN\\_2024-08529?q=flight](https://slu.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/Careers/details/Flight-Instructor-PRN_2024-08529?q=flight)

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