



**For more information contact:**  
John Niehaus  
Director of Program Development  
National Association of Flight Instructors  
(269) 355-6500  
[jniehaus@nafinet.org](mailto:jniehaus@nafinet.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **RAFAEL DUBENA EARNS NAFI MASTER INSTRUCTOR ACCREDITATION**

**KALAMAZOO, MI — 2/28/2024** The National Association of Flight Instructors is proud to announce that NAFI member Rafael Dubena has earned accreditation as a NAFI Master Flight Instructor.

Dubena's aviation journey started when he was four years old, flying in an Embraer Bandeirante to his family's farm in the Amazon rainforest. Dubena grew up looking forward to each of those airplane rides and came to Daytona Beach, Florida to start flight training after finishing high school in Brazil.

Dubena graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) with a double major in air traffic control management and aeronautics, receiving the Student of the Year Chairman's Award. Dubena worked for two



years at LATAM Airlines in Brazil as an Airbus A320 first officer and returned to Embry-Riddle to flight instruct after the COVID-19 pandemic. Dubena is currently a flight standards check airman at ERAU.

In his free time Dubena enjoys travelling with his girlfriend, spending time with friends, keeping in touch with family back in Brazil, and going out to eat.

*The **NAFI Master Flight Instructor Accreditation** is earned by aviation educators based upon a system of advanced professional standards and peer review. The accreditation identifies and publicly recognizes those teachers of flight who demonstrate an ongoing commitment to excellence, professional growth, and service to the aviation community. The NAFI Master Instructor*

*accreditation is for two years and may be used to renew an FAA flight instructor certificate. Applicants must have been a CFI for two years and have given 1,000 hours of flight instruction. In addition, candidates must meet and document activity in four NAFI Master Instructor categories (Instructor, Educator, Service to the Aviation Community, and Professional Activity).*

*Members of the **National Association of Flight Instructors** work as independent instructors, at flight schools, universities, FBOs, corporate flight departments and in the military. Since 1967, NAFI and its members, who teach in thirty countries, are dedicated to increasing and maintaining the professionalism of flight instruction. NAFI members influence active pilots daily: students working to become pilots, current pilots training to advance their skills with new ratings or certificates and pilots who seek to improve their skills with recurrent training. NAFI also serves as an advocate with industry and government as a voice for flight instruction. NAFI helps shape the current and future direction of flight training. For more information about NAFI or the NAFI Master Instructor program call **866-806-6156** or visit [www.NAFINet.org](http://www.NAFINet.org).*