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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ZACHARY HAGELY EARNS NAFI MASTER INSTRUCTOR ACCREDITATION

KALAMAZOO, MI — 2/9/2023 The National Association of Flight Instructors is proud to announce that NAFI member Zachary Hagely has earned his second NAFI Master Flight Instructor accreditation.

Hagely did his flight training and earned both his CFI and bachelor's degree in aviation management at Southern Illinois University (SIU) in Carbondale, Illinois. Afterwards, he moved to St. Louis, Missouri, where he began instructing almost immediately out of Spirit of St. Louis Airport (KSUS).



After honing his craft flight instructing, Hagely decided to pursue his dream of flying at a Part 121 airline. However, during COVID, the airline he was working for ceased flight operations. In a positive turn of events, he was contacted by the management at Elite Aviation, the school he had taught at previously, and was offered a part time flight instruction role performing progress checks, instrument instruction, and student-owned aircraft instruction. Soon after, he was proud to graduate his first CFI candidate, a student whom he had instructed previously for his private pilot certificate, as well as parts of instrument and commercial training.

Hagely now has returned to the airlines and has since upgraded to captain in an Embraer 145. He currently volunteers with the Greater St. Louis Flight Instructors Association, an organization that promotes safety and improvement of flight instruction on a regional level.

While he isn't currently providing primary instruction, he hopes to lend his passion for instructing to the airline world by becoming a line check pilot someday.

*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.*