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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **RICHARD WHITTEMORE EARNS NAFI MASTER INSTRUCTOR ACCREDITATION**

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The National Association of Flight Instructors is proud to announce that NAFI member Richard Whittemore has earned accreditation as a NAFI Master Flight Instructor.

Whittemore is from Chattanooga, TN. He says he fell in love with aviation at the age of 14. He worked two jobs in landscaping and as a construction hand in order to pay for flight training as a 16-year-old student. At the same time, he also began studying aviation at the local community college. Later that year he soloed and, just a year after beginning flight training, earned his private pilot certificate at the age of 17.



Whittemore eventually completed a degree in aviation management and began managing the small airport/FBO and flight school where he learned to fly. While there, Whittemore completed advanced flight training and began instructing for the school. He then began flying a Beechcraft Baron for a corporation.

Whittemore holds an Airline Transport Pilot certificate with Airplane Single and Multi Engine Land and Commercial privileges for Airplane Single Engine Sea and Helicopter. He also holds a

Gold Seal Flight Instructor Certificate for Airplane Single and Multi Engine and Instrument - Airplane as well as Rotorcraft-Helicopter. He is also an Instrument Ground Instructor and Commercial Drone Operator. He currently holds SIC type ratings for the Beechcraft PremierJet and the Cessna Citation XLS+. He is also the current FAA Safety Team (FAAST) representative with the San Antonio FSDO for the Laredo area. He is co-owner/manager/chief flight instructor for the only dual rated flight school in south Texas and owns/operates an aviation business that provides professional aircraft management and services. All of this is in addition to his full-time job as a Helicopter and Airplane pilot for a Part 91 operator.

Whittemore's says his goal is to "continue his personal aviation education and pass that on to aspiring and current pilots in order to promote a safer environment in the industry."

*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 30 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).*