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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANDREW DOW EARNS NAFI MASTER GROUND/FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR ACCREDITATION

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The National Association of Flight Instructors is proud to announce that NAFI member Andrew Dow has earned accreditation as both a NAFI Master Flight and Ground Instructor.

Dow started his career in aviation in 2003 working as a flight instructor for Great River Aviation in Quincy, IL. It was during this job that he discovered his true passion for teaching

others how to fly. Originally, he was only going to work as a flight instructor for a year or two until he got enough flight hours to move on to the next chapter in his life. But, he said, there was something truly rewarding about teaching others how to fly and helping them succeed in their dreams of becoming pilots. So, he continued as a flight instructor for Great River Aviation, moving up through the ranks of Assistant Chief Flight Instructor of its Part 141 Program in 2006 and then was named Chief Flight Instructor in 2009. At Great River Aviation, Dow also started as a Charter Pilot in its Part 135 Operations in 2004 and became the Chief Pilot of its Part 135 Charter Operations in 2009, and was named the Director of Operations in 2016.

Great River Aviation also has had a partnership with Quincy University's Aviation Program since 2002. Dow started teaching for the university as an adjunct professor in 2005, teaching basic aviation academic classes as well as pilot ground schools. He became a full-time employee of Quincy University in 2009 as the Aviation Program Coordinator and was later promoted to Assistant Professor of Aviation. It was at Quincy University that he discovered he was in the correct career field. Dow's favorite thing about his career, he said, is getting a new group of



freshman students in the aviation program every year at the university. He has the privilege and opportunity of teaching them through each certificate and rating and being there for them every step of the way. He has the pleasure of having them in my program for four years, guiding, shaping and molding them into safe, competent and proficient professional pilots and the honor of helping them find their first jobs within the aviation industry and sharing in the success that they have throughout their aviation careers.

Dow earned his Eagle Scout from the Boy Scout of America years ago, and currently has the privilege of being an Aviation Merit Badge Counselor; helping 87 Boy Scouts earn their Aviation merit badge to date. He is also a FAASTeam Representative for the Springfield District Office, hosting and conducting aviation safety seminars. He belongs to several aviation organizations and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Illinois Pilots Association and Illinois Aviation Trades Association.

In 2014, Dow was awarded the Brown Jacket Award at Airventure from the IMC Club. It was the first time this has been awarded and he felt very honored and privileged to receive it. "My aviation students had nominated me for the Coach of the Year award through the National Intercollegiate Flying Association for Region VIII and I had the honor of earning that title during the 2014 and 2016 competitions," he added. And he was recently awarded the Franciscan Service Award from Quincy University in 2016.

*The **NAFI Master Flight Instructor program** is the longest running and most prestigious FAA accredited master flight instructor program in the industry. The NAFI Master 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.*