



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DAVID CECCHINO EARNS NAFI MASTER INSTRUCTOR ACCREDITATION

KALAMAZOO, MI — 10/06/2016 The National Association of Flight Instructors is proud to announce that NAFI member David Cecchino has earned accreditation as a NAFI Master Flight Instructor.

Cecchino grew up in Virginia Beach near the Oceana Naval Air Station. Hearing the thunderous roar and feeling the sonic booms of the Blue Angels rocket across the sky was intoxicating, he said, and a pivotal event that inspired his motivation to fly. The bumper sticker "I LOVE JET NOISE" was ubiquitous in his hometown in the 1980s.



Cecchino began flying in 2003 while working as a Systems Engineer and earned a private certificate at Manassas Regional Airport (KHEF) in 2004. In 2006, he earned his ground instructor certificates and taught private and instrument ground school in Leesburg, Virginia. He received his CFI certificate in 2011, and said he continues to enjoy teaching motivated students and flying multi-engine aircraft.

In 2016, Cecchino earned a Bachelor of Aeronautical Science degree, graduating *magna cum laude* from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University while he was instructing part time. For his final capstone course, he wrote a research paper on Human Factors in Cockpit Automation. Cecchino is currently pursuing a Master of Science degree at Embry-Riddle with a specialization in aerospace.

Cecchino is a commercially rated pilot and a Gold Seal CFI/I, MEI, AGI, and IGI. He has given over 1,000 hours of dual instruction and teaches at Leesburg Executive Airport (KJYO). "I emphasize the highest degree of safety in my flying and inculcate that same level of safety to my flight students," he said.

*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.*