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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **ZACHARY HAEGELY EARNS NAFI MASTER INSTRUCTOR ACCREDITATION**

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

Hagely said he first became interested in learning to fly in his early 20s when looking at career options. His stepdad suggested he talk to his brother about becoming a pilot. After



some research, he quickly decided this was a career he would enjoy and began training at SIUC (Southern Illinois University Carbondale).

Hagely graduated in 2017 with a Bachelor's Degree in Aviation Management, and an Associate's Degree in Applied Science for Aviation Flight, and earning his commercial ASEL and CFI certificates. Coincidentally, the day he earned his CFI certificate, he received a call from a past instructor about an opportunity to interview at a new flight school he was managing, Elite Aviation at Spirit of St. Louis Airport. With help from senior instructors and management, Hagely quickly gained his footing, and took a lead role in developing training courses and procedures for the school. During his time there, Hagely achieved a CFII and a commercial AMEL certificate. He put instructing on hold for a short while to focus on airline training and earn an ATP. He then began to work for a regional airline, where he is currently

employed. Hagely says he still enjoys instructing part-time, and said that Flight instructing offers a special type of reward he hasn't found elsewhere in passing knowledge forward, and helping pilots succeed in achieving their goals.

*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).*