

The Ninety-Nines INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE & CAREER EXPO Conference Program



July 3 - 7, 2024

Vancouver
British Columbia, Canada

www.ninety-nines.org



SUPPORTING WOMEN WHO SOAR

As the official airline of the 2024 Ninety-Nines® International Organization of Women Pilots Conference and Career Expo, Air Canada is proud to support the achievements of the countless women who excel as leaders in aviation.

SOUTENONS LES FEMMES QUI S'ÉLÈVENT VERS LE SOMMET

À titre de transporteur aérien officiel de la conférence et salon des carrières du Ninety-Nines® International Organization of Women Pilots 2024, Air Canada est fière d'appuyer les réussites d'innombrables femmes qui excellent comme leaders dans notre industrie.

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER
MEMBRE DU RÉSEAU STAR ALLIANCE



AIR CANADA



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Habitat
for Aviation

Meet Our

MODERN ROSIES



Our all-female team of Modern Rosies are building an airplane to show folks everywhere that **WOMEN BUILD, FIX, and FLY** planes at **Habitat for Aviation**, a 501(c)3. We are reshaping perceptions and opening doors to these important industry career paths.

The aviation sector is growing rapidly yet shortages for qualified maintainers loom. Without intervention, projections suggest a **24% deficit of 43,000 airplane mechanics by 2027** (Oliver Wyman). Our specialized programming allows exploration for women to grow in this field in a safe and inclusive learning environment.

We'd love your help!

If you'd like to be part of our mission, please reach out to our Pilot in Command beth@habitatforaviation.org. Join us!

  [habitatforaviation](https://www.facebook.com/habitatforaviation)



Let's get to work girls!

President's Welcome



Welcome to The Ninety-Nines 2024 Annual Conference!

This year's conference is a great opportunity to connect with 99s members from around the world. It's a time to strengthen old friendships and create new ones through networking, collaboration, and information sharing. On behalf of the International Board of Directors, we warmly welcome all our members, guests, and aviation colleagues.

We chose the stunning city of Vancouver, a vibrant city nestled between mountains and sea, for our 91st Annual Conference. As we gather here, I can't help but reflect on the legacy of the pioneering women who paved the way for us and celebrate the incredible achievements of women in aviation today. Together, we stand on the shoulders of those trailblazers, ready to reach new heights as we continue growing and moving forward to a future guaranteed to bring changes.

Once again, this year, we have a very interesting selection of seminars and keynote speakers who promise to educate, motivate, and inspire us all! The schedule appears in this Conference Program. Please take a look and circle the sessions that interest you most.

If you're looking to shop, we will have swag tables with merchandise, as well as our Ninety-Nines table, located near the Registration area.

I applaud and thank the International Conference and Career Expo (ICCE) Committee Chair, Cathy Prudhomme and her team, including the West Canada Section members, for organizing this fantastic event. We are grateful for their time and creativity in creating a top-notch conference.

Please review the reports in your Annual Business Meeting Package and bring them to the business meeting on Saturday morning. The Package will also be available on our website in the Members Area.

Over the past year, our Board, Governors, General Counsel, Trusts, International Committees, and Headquarters Staff have consistently worked to enhance our organization. Remember to thank them for all they do on our behalf.

The province we know as British Columbia has 198 First Nations and 30 languages, with 60 dialects spoken. On behalf of the Ninety-Nines Organization of Women Pilots, I would like to acknowledge that we are gathered today on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, which has been stewarded by them since time immemorial.

Robin

Robin Hadfield
President

The Ninety-Nines Organization of Women Pilots wishes to acknowledge that the City of Vancouver is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Sk̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh (Squamish), and səliilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. We honor the many contributions of Indigenous Peoples to aviation in Canada.





PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

July 3–7, 2024



Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending The Ninety-Nines International Conference and Career Expo, being held in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Since it was established in 1929, The Ninety-Nines has been dedicated to providing female pilots from around the world a forum in which to share their passion for flight and to advancing aviation through mentoring, scholarships, and mutual support. This event offers a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon the proud history of the organization, to celebrate its many achievements, and to look to the future.

I would like to thank the West Canada Section for putting together an informative and rewarding program for everyone involved, as well as the presenters and guest speakers for sharing their insights and expertise. I am certain that delegates will benefit greatly from the many educational and networking opportunities planned for this event, and that they will come away inspired to take on new challenges and opportunities.

Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable and engaging conference and every future success.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Justin P. J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

Du 3 au 7 juillet 2024

Chères amies,

Je suis heureux de présenter mes salutations les plus chaleureuses à toutes celles qui prennent part à la conférence internationale et au salon des carrières de l'organisation The Ninety-Nines, tenus à Vancouver.



Depuis sa fondation en 1929, The Ninety-Nines offre aux femmes pilotes du monde entier un forum dans le cadre duquel elles peuvent communiquer leur passion pour le vol et promouvoir l'aviation par le mentorat, l'octroi de bourses et le soutien mutuel. Cet événement représente une merveilleuse occasion de réfléchir à la riche histoire de l'organisation, de célébrer ses nombreuses réalisations et de se tourner vers l'avenir.

Je tiens à remercier la section de l'Ouest canadien d'avoir mis sur pied un programme informatif et enrichissant pour toutes les congressistes, ainsi que les présentatrices et les conférencières de mettre à contribution leurs connaissances et leur expertise. Je suis persuadé que les participantes profiteront grandement des nombreuses occasions d'apprentissage et de réseautage prévues dans le cadre de cet événement, et qu'elles en repartiront avec le désir de relever de nouveaux défis et de saisir de nouvelles possibilités.

Je vous souhaite un congrès des plus agréables et stimulants, ainsi que le meilleur des succès pour les années à venir.

Cordialement,

Le très hon. Justin P. J. Trudeau, C.P., député
Premier ministre du Canada



A MESSAGE *from* **PREMIER DAVID EBY**

As Premier of British Columbia, it is my pleasure to extend greetings to everyone attending the 2024 International Conference and Career Expo for The Ninety-Nines International Organization of Women Pilots.

The Ninety-Nines has long been an emblem of excellence and empowerment in aviation, championing the remarkable achievements of women in a field historically dominated by men. Founded in 1929 by 99 women pilots with a mission to provide networking, mentoring and professional development opportunities for women in aviation, The Ninety-Nines has since grown into a global network with a membership base in the thousands.

Thank you to The Ninety-Nines for your hard work organizing this conference and for all that you do to open up opportunities and preserve the important history of women in your industry. As you gather to exchange knowledge, share experiences and chart the course for the future of aviation, I have no doubt that this conference will serve as a catalyst for innovation, progress and camaraderie among your many members.

Please accept my best wishes for a productive and informative conference, and I wish you every success as you continue to break down barriers for generations to come.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Eby". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Honourable David Eby, KC
Premier of British Columbia

MAYOR KEN SIM



July 3 - 7, 2024

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

On behalf of the residents of Vancouver and my colleagues on City Council, I want to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the Ninety-Nines International Conference and Career Expo.

For nearly a hundred years, the Ninety-Nines International Organization of Women Pilots have championed their mission to advance aviation and celebrate the history and passion for flight among women. Through initiatives including the Ninety-Nines Museum of Women Pilots, aviation classes, and scholarships, the Ninety-Nines have inspired, and continue to inspire generations of women pilots around the world.

Vancouver is excited and honoured to host The Ninety-Nines International Conference and Career Expo this year. The conference offers members and friends of the Ninety-Nines from across the world a platform to meet, share insights, and empower each other. I hope this year's conference is a resounding success.

Wishing everyone a fantastic time at the conference and a wonderful experience here in Vancouver!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Ken Sim', written in a cursive style.

Mayor Ken Sim

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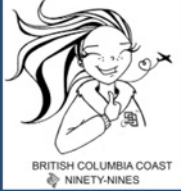
Victoria International Airport



PROUD SUPPORTER
OF THE NINETY-NINES
2024 INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE



yyj.ca








BRITISH COLUMBIA COAST
NINETY-NINES

IN MEMORY OF OUR BC COAST 99 SISTERS

CYNTHIA, ERIISA,
AND WENDY

who flew to new horizons in 2020-2023.
We carry your memories with us.



The Ninety-Nines International Conference and Career Expo Committee Vancouver 2024

Cathy Prudhomme, Houston Chapter, South Central Section
Committee Chair

Ramona Banks, Alabama Chapter, Southeast Section
Conference Publications

Victoria Fitchett, BC Coast Chapter, West Canada Section
Section Liaison, Conference Shirts and Bags, Conference Sponsorships

Linda Horn, Colorado Chapter, South Central Section
Technology

Kris Irvin-Herron, Arkansas Chapter, South Central Section
Conference Treasurer

Rosanne Isom, New Jersey Chapter, New York/New Jersey Section
Conference Sponsorship Coordinator

Maria Lamia, Blue Ridge Chapter, Southeast Section
Conference Program Advertising

Jan McKenzie, Colorado Chapter, South Central Section
Seminars and Speakers, Governors/Presidents Reception

Cindy Pang, BC Coast Chapter, West Canada Section Governor
Section Liaison, Conference Sponsorships

Lori Parker, Sedona Red Rockettes Chapter, Southwest Section
Seminars and Speakers

Liz Poepellman, Scioto Valley Chapter, North Central Section
Publicity and Promotion

Minnetta Gardinier, International Vice President, Iowa Chapter, North Central Section
International Board of Directors Liaison

Anna Echols Lawlor, AKA Travel Team
Hotel, Registration, Tours and Travel Arrangements

AKA TRAVEL TEAM
AIRFARE • CRUISES • GROUPS • HOTELS • PACKAGES

Conference Schedule

Tuesday | July 2

<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Registration Open	Harbourfront Ballroom Foyer

Wednesday | July 3

<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
7:00 am – 8:00 pm	Optional Tour: Victoria and Butchart Gardens	Meet in lobby
8:00 am – 11:00 am	Credentials Desk Open	Harbourfront Ballroom Foyer
8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Registration Open	Harbourfront Ballroom Foyer
9:00 am – 11:00 am	Exhibitor Set-Up	Harbourfront Ballroom Foyer
12:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Exhibits/Fly Mart	Harbourfront Ballroom Foyer
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Onboarding Session for Current/Incoming International Board Members	Port of Singapore
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Hospitality	Coal Harbour Suite
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	International Board of Directors Meeting	Port of Singapore

Thursday | July 4

<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Registration Open	Harbourfront Ballroom Foyer
7:00 am – 7:45 am	Keynote Continental Breakfast	Harbourfront Ballroom Foyer
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Opening Keynote: Kendra Kincade: “Elevating the Skies: Changing the Face of the Aviation Industry”	Harbourfront Ballroom I and II
9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Exhibits/Fly Mart	Harbourfront Ballroom Foyer
9:15 am – 10:15 am	Seminar, Angela Tanton: “This Girl’s On ‘Fires”	Salon F
9:15 am – 10:15 am	Seminar, Kathy Fox: “Improving General Aviation Safety: Learning from the Mistakes of Others”	Harbourfront Ballroom I and II
10:00 am – 4:00 pm	Hospitality	Coal Harbour Suite
10:45 am – 11:45 am	Seminar, Catherine Press: “From Grade 4 to CEO”	Salon F
10:45 am – 11:45 am	Seminar, Colette Morin: “Back in the Air, After a Scare”	Harbourfront Ballroom I and II
12:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Optional Tour: Discover Vancouver	Meet in lobby
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Leadership Session for International Board Members	Port of Hong Kong
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Credentials Desk Open	Harbourfront Ballroom Foyer
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Q and A with AEMS F Trustees for AE Scholarship Chairs	Port of New York
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	AEMS F Trustee Meeting	Port of New York
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Endowment Fund Trustee Meeting	Port of Singapore
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Optional Tour: Gastown Food Walk	Meet in lobby
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Council of Governors Meeting	Port of Singapore
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Meet and Greet for 1st Time Attendees	Coal Harbour Suite
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Welcome Reception (Cash Bar)	Vistas

Conference Schedule

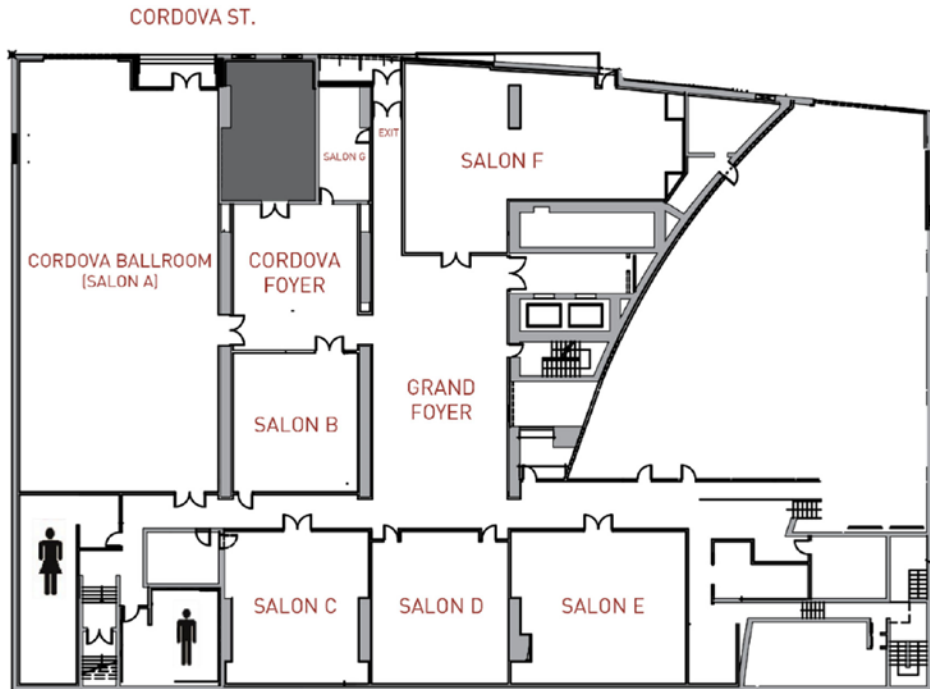
Friday July 5		
<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Registration Open	Harbourfront Ballroom Foyer
8:00 am – 8:45 am	Keynote Address: Major General Jamie Speiser-Blanchet, Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF): “Empowering Women to Lead the Next Generation of the RCAF”	Harbourfront Ballroom I and II
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Seminar, Judy Phelps: “Things She Sees as a DPE”	Ports of San Francisco and New York
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Triple Feature Seminar: Flying for a Cause Eva Lopez: “Taking Flight for Volunteer Organizations” Lise Ashe: “Hope Is In The Air” Petra Janney: “Amelia Air: Flying Shelter Pets to Freedom”	Salon F
9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Exhibits/Fly Mart	Harbourfront Ballroom Foyer
10:00 am – 4:00 pm	Hospitality	Coal Harbour Suite
10:15 am – 11:45 am	Seminar: “Laugh, Learn, Lead” for all members	Harbourfront Ballroom III
1:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Optional Tour: North Vancouver/Capilano Suspension Bridge	Meet in lobby
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Credentials Desk Open	Harbourfront Ballroom Foyer
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Optional Tour: Gastown Food Walk	Meet in lobby
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	West Canada Section Annual General Meeting	Port of Singapore
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Pre-Annual Meeting Comm Session	Harbourfront Ballroom I and II
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Optional: Governors/Presidents Reception for Past/Current Governors and Presidents	Vistas

Saturday July 6		
<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
7:00 am – 8:00 am	Registration	Harbourfront Ballroom Foyer
7:00 am – 8:00 am	Credentials Desk Open	Harbourfront Ballroom Foyer
7:00 am – 8:00 am	Breakfast Buffet	Harbourfront Ballroom III
8:30 am – 11:30 am	Ninety-Nines Inc. Annual Meeting	Harbourfront Ballroom I and II
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Luncheon for Ninety-Nines Life Members	Ports of San Francisco and New York
12:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Hospitality	Coal Harbour Suite
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Ninety-Nines PPLI Pilot Career Panel Laura Matheson and Ella Stersky	Harbourfront Ballroom III
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Boeing Production Presentation, Speaker: Captain Jennifer Henderson: “Lessons from a Test Pilot and How They Apply to You”	Harbourfront Ballroom III
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	International Board of Directors Meeting	Port of Singapore
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Networking Session for Career Pilots	Coal Harbour Suite
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Social Hour (Cash Bar)	Harbourfront Ballroom Foyer
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Awards Banquet: Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarships/ Ninety-Nines International Awards	Harbourfront Ballroom I and II

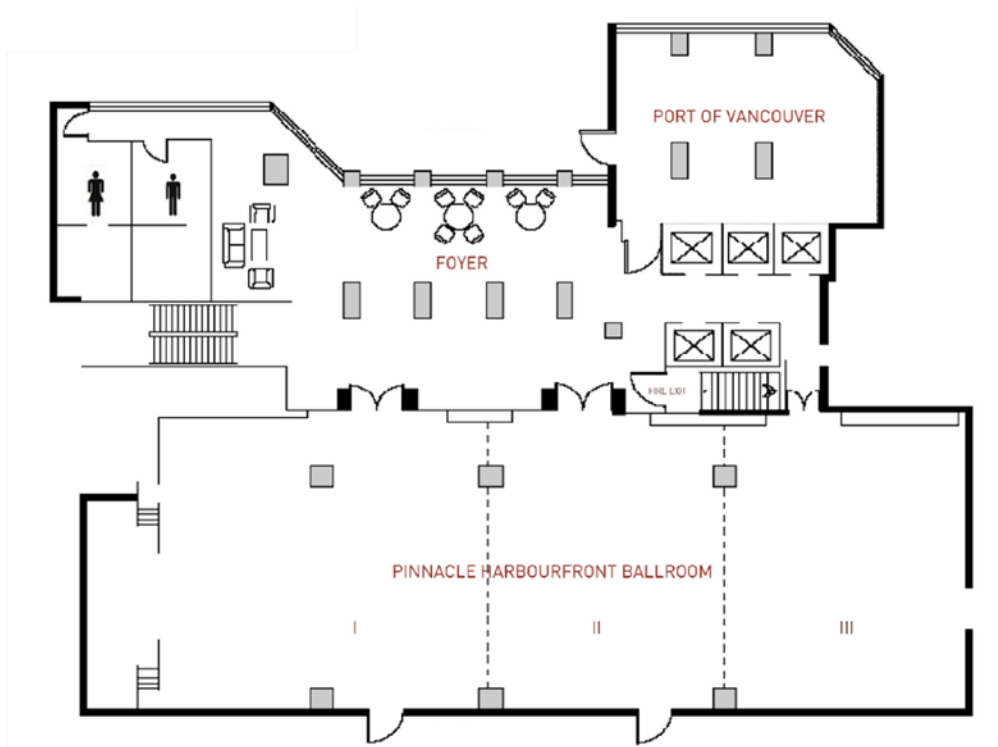
Hotel Floor Plan

PINNACLE HOTEL HARBOURFRONT

Cordova Level

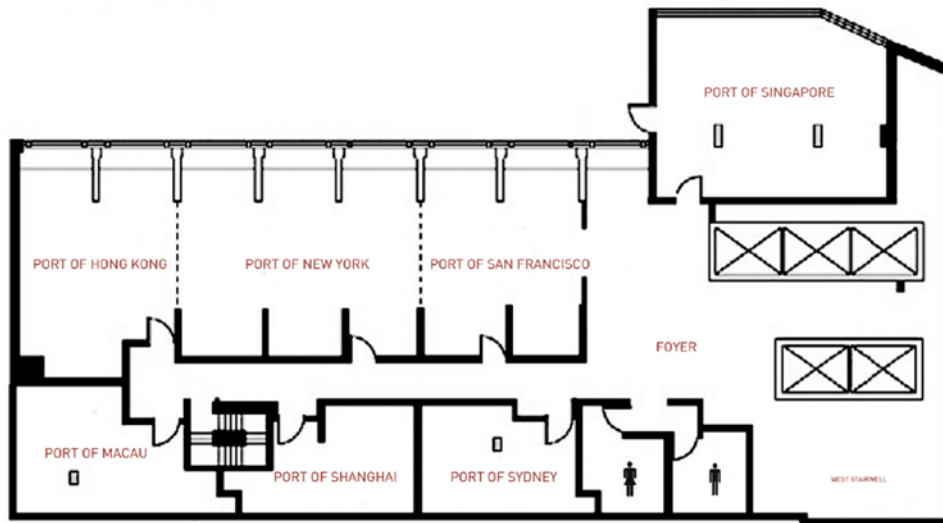


Ballroom Harbourfront Level



Hotel Floor Plan

Port Rooms 3rd Level



Welcome to Vancouver



The International Conference and Career Expo Committee would like to welcome you to Vancouver, BC. This British Columbia city is a real jewel of Canada's west coast, combining the cultural perks of city life with all the nature you could want. To help you get the most out of your visit, we have created an online welcome guide to Vancouver which includes things to do and see while you are here.



To view this guide, open your phone's camera app and point it at the QR code. Once your camera recognizes the QR code, a notification will pop up that features the web link to the online guide. Tap on this link and your phone will direct you to the guide.

Thank you for joining us for the 2024 Ninety-Nines International Conference in Vancouver. We are delighted that you are here.

Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund

2024 Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Trustees



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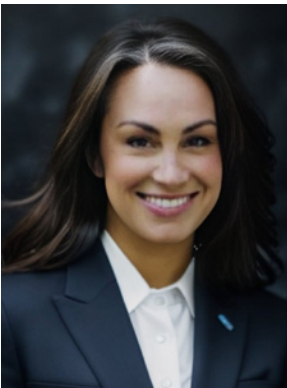
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2023-2026

AEMS F Outside Judges



Susan Pflugstler, VP, Jet Blue Aviation

Susan Pflugstler is the Vice President of JetBlue University. She oversees the Colleges of Flight, Technical Operations, Dispatch, In Flight, Airport and Ground Operations, Customer Support, and Hospitality, spanning multiple locations including Orlando, Salt Lake City, and New York. She and a team of dedicated professionals ensure that every JetBlue Crewmember is equipped with the knowledge and skills essential to execute the operational strategy and embody the distinctive JetBlue experience.

Prior to her role at JetBlue, Susan served as the Managing Director of Network Operations, Air Traffic Control Strategy at United Airlines. Her team's innovative air and surface traffic flow management strategies enhanced United's global daily operations. Strategically, she spearheaded engagements both domestically and internationally to shape corporate investments that enhance the customer travel experience through cutting-edge aviation

technologies.

Susan's journey in aviation began with a profound passion for flight, cultivated from a young age. Throughout her career, she has remained dedicated to service, earning flight certifications and piloting in both corporate and Part 121 airline sectors. Her diverse background includes roles at The Port Authority of NY&NJ, management of IATA's Safety, Operations, and Infrastructure Division for Latin America and the Caribbean, and contributions to the Federal Aviation Administration.

As a graduate of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Susan values continuous learning. Actively engaged in industry discussions, she serves on the NASA Advisory Council Aeronautics Committee and is a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society. Susan's dedication to service underscores her belief in aviation's power to connect people and communities worldwide.

Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund

AEMSF Outside Judges



Catherine Press, Chinook Helicopters

As the first female helicopter flight instructor in Canada and CEO of Chinook Helicopters, Cathy started flying at 11 years of age and completed her first solo flight at 16. In 1988, Cathy took over the family business from her father, Larry Press, and grew Chinook from two helicopters to an internationally recognized flight school. She has a long history of persevering toward big challenges and goals which has led to her success both as an aviator and a business leader. Cathy currently holds many Transport Canada helicopter and airplane authorities, including Pilot Examiner and Helicopter Approved Check Pilot. Cathy is the Chair of the Flight Training Committee for HAC (Helicopter Association of Canada), Vice Chair for BCAC (BC Aviation Council) and is a board member of the IWF (International Women's Federation). She also sits on Business Advisory Committees for the University of the Fraser Valley and the British Columbia Institute of Technology. In 2021 the University of the Fraser Valley awarded Cathy an honorary doctorate in technology for her longstanding commitment and contribution to the aviation industry. Cathy was awarded the Women's Executive Top 100 Most Powerful Women in Canada. Currently, Chinook Helicopters is the largest flight training company on both helicopter and airplane in Canada. Chinook has trained students from 68 different countries as well as various offshore operators, foreign military, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Transport Canada, TSB, Coast Guard and US Air Force.



Emily Reiman, Elevate Aviation

Emily Reiman was born and raised in Niagara Falls, Ontario and currently resides in Cold Lake, Alberta. Emily is a Personnel Selections (PSel) Officer in the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) holding the rank of Lieutenant and the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) at Elevate Aviation. She has served in the military for over 9 years, completing two operational deployments and numerous exercises. Her experience was mostly in air defence, and recently commissioned into the PSel occupation last summer.

She holds a Masters in Interdisciplinary Studies with a focus in Equity Studies and is currently completing a Master's Degree in Industrial Organizational Psychology with a focus in Data Science. She enjoys advancing gender equity in the aviation industry and finding best practices for all to feel welcome, safe and empowered.

Emily is very involved with advocacy work and is a longstanding member and former military co-chair of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Defence Women's Advisory Organization (DWAO), a member of the Transforming Military Cultures Network in the RCAF. She is a positive space ambassador, sentinel and holds certifications in GBA+ and Change Management. Emily is the Project Coordinator of Allies in the Workplace for Elevate Aviation which is a project designed to create change, advance women and educate the aviation industry.

Outside of the workplace, Emily loves to golf, weightlifting, and learn about all things astronomy!

*Congratulations to the West Canada Section 99s
on hosting a wonderful International Conference*

CHICAGO AREA CHAPTER

*Celebrating over 50 years
of educating Midwest pilots
at our annual*

IFR/VFR Safety Seminar and Aviation Expo



South Central Section 99s
wish everyone
Blue Skies and Tailwinds!

www.scs99s.org

2024 Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Recipients



Ivy Adams

CFI | Nashville Chapter, Southeast Section

Hello! I am Ivy Adams. I'm honored to receive the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship and be part of the legacy of women pilots that our organization has been empowering for nearly one hundred years. I am an alumna of Middle Tennessee State University, having earned both my bachelor's and master's degrees in Aeronautical Science. As an aviation enthusiast, I am certified as both an aircraft dispatcher and a Part 107 small unmanned aerial system operator. My long-term career goal is to fly for a major legacy air carrier.



Olivia Anderson

Gas Turbine Engine Endorsement | Australian Section

My name is Olivia Anderson and I am a helicopter mustering pilot in remote outback Australia. I had my heart set on flying since my early teens which lead to me completing my CPLH at 19 and launched me into the crazy, challenging and ever rewarding aerial mustering industry. I get to work amongst some of Australia's most stunning and remote scenery. There isn't enough words for how grateful I am to the 99s to be a recipient of this scholarship which I will use as a launch pad to propel me into further complex airwork roles in turbine helicopters.



Amber Brierly

CFI | Daytona Beach Chapter, Southeast Section

I am originally from New Zealand and became a US Citizen in 2023. I graduated with a degree in Aviation Management in New Zealand, studied abroad for a year at Embry-Riddle's Daytona Beach Campus, and graduated in 2014. I have spent the last eight years working in business aviation before starting my flight training in August 2021. I started my own aviation apparel company designing shirts for female pilots and recently won NBAA's top 40 under 40 in 2023. I'm looking forward to CFI training and want to use these skills to give back to the community as an instructor.



Nobi Buntin

Multi-Engine Instructor | Santa Clara Valley Chapter, Southwest Section

After over 25 years in the educational arena, I felt completely burnt out. In 2016, I decided to reinvent myself and took to the skies. Early in my flight training, I ignored the advice of my mentors; I stubbornly tried to avoid becoming a CFI, attempting to escape the gravitational pull. However, instructing was my true calling. I am right back to teaching and loving every minute! With the generous support of AEMSFS, I will earn my MEI, perfectly combining my passions for teaching and aviation. The moral of the story? Sometimes, you just can't fight destiny or gravity!

2024 Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Recipients



Jacqueline Cako

Commercial Multi-Engine Add-on | Phoenix Chapter, Southwest Section

I was a professional tennis player up until COVID shut the world down. With tennis being a financially demanding sport, I decided it was time to start a new chapter. Since I had always had an interest in aviation, I took a discovery flight in August of 2020 and was immediately hooked. I'm now working as a CFI at California Aeronautical University. This scholarship is allowing me to attain my Commercial Multi-Engine after which I plan to get my Multi-Engine Instructor certificate. These are my stepping stones toward my end goal of becoming an airline pilot.



Jalyna Cook

Instrument Rating | San Diego Chapter, Southwest Section

My name is Jalyna Cook, a recent private pilot as of November 2023 and currently sit as the San Diego Ninety-Nines membership chair. In my professional life, I work as the Associate Director of Nursing Informatics for a large healthcare system in Texas. I have dedicated my life to continuous learning, already obtaining four college degrees. I hope to utilize my doctorate in education along with flight training ratings to serve the next generation of aviators. Thanks to this tremendously generous scholarship, I will be able to complete my instrument rating expeditiously, a crucial step in my aviation journey.



Ana Costa

Instrument Rating | Florida Gold Coast Chapter, Southeast Section

My childhood passion for aviation led me to become the first pilot in my family, at the age of 19. The following year, I earned my commercial certificate and started working as a pilot in Brazil. Years later, I moved to the US, where I obtained my FAA CPL. Now, with the support of the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship, I'll pursue my Instrument Rating. Besides aviation, I enjoy fishing, cooking, and spending time with loved ones. I also proudly serve as the Social Media and Vice-Chair of the FLCG 99s chapter. My goal after earning this rating: Fly for a charter company!



Susan Haass

Technical – Light Sport Repair Maintenance Certification | Houston Chapter, South Central Section

I started flying late in life, beginning with a Discovery flight in November 2011 and passing my PPL checkride in June 2012. In 2015, I bought my Cherokee 140/160. In 2016, I started flying for Pilots n Paws; dogs and flying = perfect. I'm in AOPA, EAA, and the 99s. Since retiring, I've started my 3rd career, aviation. I'm FAASteam representative for KIWS, have taken avionics classes at the Aircraft Electronics Association, and work for a flight club at KTME. This scholarship will allow me to achieve the Light Sport Repairman Maintenance rating to work on light sport aircraft.

2024 Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Recipients



Sarah Haskett

Commercial | Michigan Chapter, North Central Section

I reside in Midland, Michigan with my husband, Brandon, and my two teenage daughters, Arianna and Stephanie. I began flight lessons as a 40th birthday present to myself. I completed my PPL in July 2020 and my Instrument Rating in July 2023. Recently, I passed the written exam for my Commercial License. I recently ended my public-school teaching career and opened my own music studio in order to make more time for flight training. My goal is to pursue a career in aviation upon completion of my Commercial License.



Whitney Holcomb

Commercial Helicopter Add-on | Air Hearts – Utah Chapter, Southwest Section

I'm thrilled to be an AEMSf recipient, and grateful to my AirHearts-Utah Chapter and Southwest Section for their support. I've loved aviation all my life, and have been a skydiver for 19 years, but my desire to become a pilot didn't begin until age 43 when I took my first flight in a gyroplane. I'm now a commercial pilot, CFI, and AutoGyro owner. This scholarship will be used to add commercial helicopter to my certificate. While working as a helicopter pilot, my ambition is to create a more accessible and affordable route for others to become commercial rotorcraft pilots.



Dana Magallanes

Commercial Multi-Engine Add-on | San Gabriel Valley Chapter, Southwest Section

I'm so honored to receive the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship for my Multi-Engine Rating. I have the pleasure of serving as Membership Chair for my local chapter. I joined the Ninety-Nines as a student pilot and now I'm an instrument rated commercial pilot. I fell in love with aviation after my discovery flight. Since then my focus is becoming a major airline pilot. I hope to inspire other female pilots juggling aviation and children, or those who want to make a career change into aviation. This scholarship allows me to follow my passion and is life changing for my family.



Kimberly Manasco

Commercial Multi-Engine Add-on | Dallas Chapter, South Central Section

As a former math teacher turned flight attendant and now flight instructor, I'm on a relentless pursuit to elevate my career as a pilot. Juggling two jobs to fuel my aviation dreams, I've been soaring the skies since July 2022, driven by a thirst for knowledge. Inspired by fellow Ninety-Nines, I'm eager to explore new horizons in the corporate world, harnessing my diverse experiences and dedication to excel. With unwavering determination, I'm committed to mastering every aspect of flight swiftly and adeptly, poised to carve my path among the stars.

2024 Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Recipients



Megan McArthur

Commercial | Chicago Area Chapter, North Central Section

As a single mother working two jobs, I never thought becoming a pilot would be my reality. Two years ago, I was given a discovery flight, the moment that plane took off I knew that I found my calling. I completely fell in love with aviation and haven't looked back since. I have recently earned my instrument rating and my instrument ground instructor certificate, the blessing of this scholarship is allowing me to complete my commercial training. I am working towards becoming an instructor and look forward to supporting and inspiring others to pursue their aviation dreams.



Annemarie McMillan

Academic – Professional Aviation | NOLA Chapter, Southeast Section

Shortly after my 17th birthday, I discovered my passion for flying and subsequently joined the Ninety-Nines. I began my flight training at a soft-field, private airport while still in high school, often waking up to fly before class in the morning. Now, I'm a commercial student pursuing a Professional Aviation degree at Louisiana Tech University, where I am president of the WAI chapter. I'm so grateful to the Ninety-Nines for making my dreams possible and affordable, and I would like to give a special thanks to the NOLA chapter for encouraging me throughout every part of my aviation journey!



Glynis Olgado

Commercial Multi-Engine Add-on | Las Vegas Chapter, Southwest Section

After experiencing a tour flight in Las Vegas through my job as a concierge, I caught the aviation bug immediately, especially since the captain was a woman and a fellow 99. I became the first pilot in my family! This award will help me work towards my commercial multi add-on, which will help me later in my career as I aspire to be an airline pilot. I appreciate the support of the 99s and the friendships I have made. Besides flying, I enjoy riding dune buggies in the desert, break dancing, and spending lots of time with my niece and nephew.



Kimberly Olson

Commercial Multi-Engine Add-on | San Diego Chapter, Southwest Section

I work as a flight attendant with Alaska Airlines and serve as the Chairwoman of the San Diego 99s. I am the lead tutor at Miramar Community College's aviation department and am on track to become an adjunct instructor there. My favorite flights are with Pilots n Paws as it combines my love for helping rescue animals and my love of flying. This scholarship fills me with immense gratitude as it will help me obtain my multi-engine commercial add-on. I aim to become an airline pilot while mentoring other women as they navigate their aviation journey.

2024 Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Recipients



Alyssa Rittel

Multi-Engine Land | Midnight Sun Chapter, Northwest Section

I am a Ninety-Nine and pilot from Fairbanks, Alaska. When I started flying in 2022, it quickly became clear I wanted to pursue a career in aviation. I am in training to become a certified flight instructor with a goal of becoming an airline pilot. My next goal is to obtain a multi-engine airplane rating. Being a recipient of the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship is making that goal possible and I am so grateful for the opportunity. In addition to flying, I enjoy being a mom, exploring trails with my huskies, knitting, gardening, fishing, and outdoor adventures.



Alessandra Rizzo

Commercial Multi-Engine Add-on | San Luis Obispo Chapter, Southwest Section

I've grown up flying with my family, but it wasn't until university that I started learning to fly. Over the past four years, I've earned my private and commercial certificates, become a flight instructor, and most recently, in March of this year, I earned my CFII rating! I've enjoyed getting to know the aviation community through involvement with the 99's and my university's aviation club. I'm excited to share that I'll be graduating in June with a degree in Biochemistry from Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo and that I'll start training towards my commercial multi-engine rating this summer!



Fiona Smith

Vicki Cruse Emergency Maneuver Training | British Section

I was awarded my PPL the day before I joined the Royal Air Force. Since then I've enjoyed hours-building in Canada, a flight to France, and lots in between. My aerobatics rating has always been in my sights. I'm absolutely delighted at the opportunity to fly aerobatics, fly Pitts, and fly tailwheel, all in one award! Once my scholarship is fulfilled, I plan to fly into my workplace, Brooklands Museum, on a fly-in day! I'm aiming for commercial flight, battling through theory and hours-building. I'm proud to be a 99, and to be a British-European scholarship winner!



Stacy Uebelhor

CFII | Greater Seattle Chapter, Northwest Section

As a flight attendant since 2006, I didn't find my true aviation calling until a couple colleagues encouraged me to take a discovery flight. I balanced work, family, motherhood, and volunteerism while flight training. Fast forward and I'm a first generation pilot with a passion for instructing. I'm originally from northern Arizona, but call the Pacific Northwest home. It was here I learned to fly and found the Ninety-Nines, which provided both mentorship opportunities and financial support. Many thanks to the women pilots who continue to inspire me towards my own goals. This scholarship will help me earn my CFII.

2024 Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Recipients



Spring Vick

CE-525 Type-Rating | San Diego Chapter, Southwest Section

As a single mom of four and a flight attendant with Delta Airlines for 26 years, I've recently embarked on an exciting new chapter. After five years of perseverance, I was selected for Delta's Propel Advanced Pilot Pathway program. Concurrently, I'm pursuing a PhD in Aviation, aiming to combine flying with teaching at the collegiate level. I aspire to pilot the A350 aircraft and inspire others, particularly women, in aviation. Through my journey, I demonstrate to my children that no obstacle is too significant when you're committed to your dreams.



Maki Yu

CFI | Santa Clara Valley Chapter, Southwest Section

My flying started as a hobby, and it quickly became an obsession. I've managed to earn my Private, Instrument and Commercial every year since I started flying. Thanks to the generous Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship, I'll reach my goal of becoming a career CFI sooner than expected. I'm grateful for the Ninety-Nines and the amazing members in my chapter who have supported me through my entire aviation journey. As a CFI, I will continue to spread the love of aviation to those in my community, including my 8 year old son who I hope to solo on his 16th birthday!



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2023 Fall First Wings Scholarship Recipients



Zohrah Amiri

Minnesota Chapter, North Central Section | Mentor: Alyse Higgins

My name is Zohrah Amiri. My family moved to United States in September 2016 from Pakistan. Ever since I was a little girl, I dreamt of becoming a pilot. I would wave at planes passing by envisioning my own future. Upon arrival to America, I promised myself to achieve my dream no matter how hard I had to work. In June 2023, I started my flight training and proudly joined the 99s, an amazing group of women pilots. Receiving the First Wings scholarship is a significant milestone in my journey. Thank you for investing in my future. I feel truly honored.



Alyssa Christian

San Diego Chapter, Southwest Section | Mentor: Kim Olson

My name is Alyssa Christian and I am honored as a student pilot to receive the First Wings Award. I have 21 hours of flight training at Montgomery-Gibbs airport. In elementary school, I reported on Amelia Earhart and ever since, her leadership and bravery have become my inspiration. My love for aviation lead to my current job as a flight attendant. I am finding new joy in growing my knowledge and technical understanding of what it takes to become a pilot. I would love to inspire young women to pursue their dreams of learning to fly without limitations.



Brenna D'Arcy

Atlantic Chapter, East Canada Section | Mentor: Elizabeth Walker

I've always wanted to fly. When I was a young adult, the stars did not align for me to pursue flight training. Instead, I completed a degree in linguistics and became a mom. Now established in my career as a Sign Language Interpreter, and with a daughter who is now 11, I have more time and resources to devote to flight training. Every time I'm in an airplane, I look outside and experience a moment of joy and gratitude. Thank you to my mentor and the 99s for the support and encouragement.



Jennifer Davis

Colorado Chapter, South Central Section | Mentor: Amanda Wilson

My name is Jenn Davis and I'm thrilled to be a First Wings Scholar. I have always been excited about aviation. I took my first flight at 6 weeks old and started flight training when I was 16 years old. Although I couldn't finish training back then before I could get my wings, I never gave up on my dream of learning to fly and picked back up flight training this year while also working on my PhD in planetary geology. I'm extremely excited the Ninety-Nines are helping me along on my journey as I become a licensed private pilot.

2023 Fall First Wings Scholarship Recipients



Emma Franklin

Indiana Chapter, North Central Section | Mentor: Megan Dukes

I began flying earlier than most, as I am currently eighteen and a senior in high school. I have been accepted to my college of choice, Indiana State University, where I will pursue a bachelor's degree in Professional Flight Aviation Technology. I began my training young because I have my eyes set on my final goal of entering the airlines to fly internationally because of my passion for both flying and traveling. I hope that by entering the airline industry, I will inspire more young women to achieve their dreams and to not be afraid of entering a male-dominated industry.



Mahroo Hamedani

Columbia Cascade Chapter, Northwest Section | Mentor: Linda Worden

Mahroo Hamedani is a professional classical pianist and piano teacher living in Wilsonville, Oregon. After meeting and connecting with a few experienced pilots, she developed a true passion and interest for flight training. She is currently working on her private pilot license and has a goal to finish her license in 2024. "Joining the 99s has been the best decision. I have met so many great friends and people. I wanted to thank the Columbia Cascade chapter for their ongoing support. I feel honored and grateful to have been selected as a recipient of the First Wings Award scholarship."



Rachel Huff-Wagenborg

Aloha Chapter, Southwest Section | Mentor: Megan Albright

I am elated and honored to receive a First Wings scholarship for my Private Pilot License. I feel so fortunate to have the support of the Aloha Chapter Ninety-Nines and grateful for this investment in my aviation goals. I have a Masters Degree in Public Administration and an extensive background in nonprofit management. Chasing my ambitions and seizing a career change opportunity, I'm working to become a commercial pilot. I'm so excited to see what lies ahead as I explore ways to combine mission driven work and my dream of flying. Thanks to the AEMSF for generously propelling me forward.



Rebecca Iancic

Waterloo on the Grand Chapter, East Canada Section | Mentor: Contessa Bishop

Rebecca Iancic is grateful to be a recipient of the Fall First Wings Scholarship! Her first flight was at 5 years old with her father, a former aerospace engineer. At 14 years old, her first lesson was in a SNJ-Texan (T-6), being her first entry in her logbook. At 15, she started flight lessons at St. Catharines Flying Club and on April 6th, she completed her first solo. With the help of this scholarship, she will be able to complete her Private Pilot License and continue her training towards her goal of becoming a commercial pilot!

2023 Fall First Wings Scholarship Recipients



Mary-Ann Kalotai

First Canadian Chapter, East Canada Section | Mentor: Lesley Page

Everything came together for me at the 2022 99s Girls Take Flight event at the Oshawa Executive Airport. I won a discovery flight, and immediately volunteered to be on the planning team for the next year. I loved doing public outreach with my local amateur astronomy club and look forward to sharing the skies in aviation too. By learning to fly, and volunteering with the 99s, I hope to show that it's never too late to learn something new. The AEMSFS First Wings Scholarship is incredibly generous and I am grateful for the support.



Anupama Kar

Michigan Chapter, North Central Section | Mentor: Linda Langrill

Anupama "Sigma" Kar is a student pilot, training for her PPL (Private Pilot License). She wants to be a fighter pilot in the US Air Force. On the side, she works as a mechanical engineer at the University of Michigan. "Life has not been fair or easy so far but my mother has taught me to fight for my dream. When you choose you, so many around you will be upset and try to harass you and pull you down. Two options: either give up and regret, or stand up for yourself and dare," says Sigma. Fly High; sky high.



Mackenzie Lake

Mt Shasta Chapter, Southwest Section | Mentor: Barbara Boot

On this journey to becoming a pilot, I am empowered, encouraged, and surrounded by the many incredible women in the 99s aviation community! I am 34 years old and have always loved flying, adventure, and exploring, but it wasn't until last year that I had the bright idea that I could be the one flying the plane! The obvious 1st goal is a PPL, after that commercial, and CFI. Some fun goals for the future will be to fly my family, future kids and grandkids, fly missions somewhere remote, and get a seaplane rating to fly in Alaska! Wahoo!



Danette Lewis

San Fernando Valley Chapter, Southwest Section | Mentor: Emma Baker

Danette Christine is a poet, producer, musician, and fourth-generation Angeleno. She founded Soundtrack Marketing, a music-based branding firm that provides award-winning inflight entertainment for prestigious airlines around the world. She earned her Associate degree in Aviation from Orange Coast College long ago but is now able to pursue her piloting aspiration: to pilot private charter jets. She made her first solo through Glendale Community College Aviation at KWHP where she served as Secretary of the GCC Aviators Club, and is finishing her Private Pilot training with First Take Aviation at KVMY. She is most proud of raising two thoughtful, empowered daughters.

2023 Fall First Wings Scholarship Recipients



Yi Li

Santa Clara Chapter, Southwest Section | Mentor: Patricia Gregory

I started private pilot training when I was three months pregnant. Despite many challenges, I completed solo, written exams, and dual cross country before labor. I continued the training with my baby. Now, I have met all the requirements and am getting ready for the check ride. Eventually, I will work toward my CFI license and teach the next generation. Also, as a software engineer, I will combine my passions and create a cutting-edge transportation software platform for pilots one day.



Shanley Olson

Phoenix Chapter, Southwest Section | Mentor: Ginger Rowley

I grew up a little bit of everywhere, but spent the most living on a small farm in Littlerock, Washington. My first flight was with my dad at 12 years old. On September 17th, 2023 and 8 years later, I had my first solo. My dream is to fly for a major airline and to fly as pilot in command with my dad. I currently work for an aviation insurance company. My two favorite things to do are fly planes and volunteer at aviation events. I'm so grateful for this scholarship and for the wonderful people I've met from the 99s.



Ancis Rodriguez

Aloha Chapter, Southwest Section | Mentor: Riata Ready

My interest in aviation blossomed from my desire to travel the world and have a more fulfilling career. In 2022, I took a discovery flight and I fell in love with seeing my beautiful home of Oahu from a different perspective and quickly knew this was the career for me. I immediately dove into training and haven't looked back since. I'm eternally grateful to be chosen for this award and for the support of my local chapter. My dream is to one day encourage and inspire future women in aviation to achieve their goals and break through barriers.



Vanessa Schultz

Midnight Sun Chapter, Northwest Section | Mentor: Ute Kaden

My name is Vanessa Schultz and I live in Fairbanks, Alaska. I currently guide tours in the Arctic, exploring icy landscapes and sharing my passion for the outdoors. Without the help of the aviation community here in Alaska, especially the women in aviation, I wouldn't believe that my dreams can become reality. This scholarship enables me to fly consistently and achieve my goals. My ultimate dream is to fly float and ski planes, taking my love for exploration to the skies. I am thrilled and honored to share in the camaraderie and legacy established by the Ninety-Nines.

2023 Fall First Wings Scholarship Recipients



Krystle Stasik

Michigan Chapter, North Central Section | Mentor: Morgan Duling

I'm deeply connected to the aviation community - active in EAA Chapter 113, WIA – Yankee Ladies Chapter, and the Michigan Ninety-Nines. Previously in the Hospitality Industry, I recently spread my wings as an Air Charter Specialist based at KYIP; my passion taking flight both professionally and personally. Last year brought challenges and profound loss, yet amidst the turbulence, became a catalyst for renewed fervor in flying and personal growth. Beyond the skies, I'm a devoted fur-mom to my kitties; Harper and Zulu and enjoy reading, playing video games, and music/concerts. I'm honored to receive the First Wings Award.



Gina Wilke

Columbia Cascade Chapter, Northwest Section | Mentor: Turi Abbott

After both teaching English abroad and working as a Scuba Instructor, I landed a job as a flight attendant for Alaska Airlines. Working in aviation has expanded my vision. A few years ago, while enjoying a flight deck observation opportunity, I realized that working as a pilot would be my destiny. I am joyfully taking steps toward my dream: to pilot wide-body aircraft for an international carrier. I began my flight training in Oregon last April. As a proud member of the 99s since 2022, I delight in organizing events for my 99s chapter and find the camaraderie very fulfilling.



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2024 Spring First Wings Scholarship Recipients



Jennifer Baran

New Jersey Chapter, New York- New Jersey Section | Mentor: Linda Sculy

I am from Oak Ridge, NJ. I have always had a fascination with aviation. Last summer, I decided to pursue my dream and embarked on my journey to becoming a pilot. This is a journey that I am thoroughly enjoying. I am currently training at Aero Safety in Lincoln Park, NJ. I am looking forward to obtaining my pilots license and continuing to become a CFI. I also became involved with the 99s at this time as well. Since becoming a member, I have received additional support in the path that I have chosen.



Chelsea Borowski

Reno High Sierra Chapter, Southwest Section | Mentor: Leah Ochs

My name is Chelsea Borowski, and I have worked in public education the last ten years. After earning my Master's in Educational Leadership, I transitioned from a classroom teacher to an elementary school administrator. This change prompted me to start my aviation journey last summer with the ultimate goal to become a CFI, merging my love for teaching with my passion for flying. Some of my most cherished memories include my first cross-country flight as a student pilot with the person who first introduced me to aviation when I was young and the exhilarating experience of my first solo flight.



Lilly Clements

Daytona Chapter, Southeast Section | Mentor: Amanda Fallon

Hi my name is Lilly Clements and I fell in love with flying at a young age. Growing up as a German-American with military parents, we traveled quite often. Despite facing challenges, I'm pursuing my dream of becoming a pilot at Deland. Juggling two jobs and flight training, I have worked hard to make progress towards my goal. Joining the 99s organization has connected me with other women in aviation and inspired me to empower young women pursuing the same dreams. Receiving the scholarship has motivated me more to achieve my goal.



Emma Coulter

Ventura County Chapter, Southwest Section | Mentor: Alison Barker

Aviation is something I've been exposed to my entire life, yet its impact did not stretch beyond wonder and curiosity until I received a Discovery flight for my 17th birthday. One year later, I am eagerly anticipating my private pilot checkride while daydreaming about the bright future that lies ahead. Aspiring to fly professionally, after high school I plan on attending a Part 141 University to earn a Restricted ATP Certificate. Balancing school, sports, and flying hasn't been easy, but I couldn't have done it without the support from my VC 99s family! Thank you for showing me that the sky is not the limit.

2024 Spring First Wings Scholarship Recipients



Esmeralda Guzman Beltran

Sutter Buttes Chapter, Southwest Section | Mentor: Mary Wich

My name is Esmeralda J. Guzman Beltran, a 25-year-old student pilot, currently working as a server as I pursue my goal of becoming an airline pilot. Every moment I spend in the air reaffirms my passion for flying. Outside of flying, I enjoy exploring new trails, spending quality time with my loved ones or hanging out with my cat. I look forward to the day when I become a professional pilot, so I can connect with people from all over the world and have the privilege of flying my family to new destinations!



Anastasia Heitmann

Sutter Buttes Chapter, Southwest Section | Mentor: Lisa Simpson

Anastasia's aviation journey began when she moved from Eastern Europe to Italy as a young girl, with her first flight leaving an indelible mark. She embarked on a career in tourism while nurturing her love for flying. After moving to the USA in 2020, she embraced her passion for aviation, enrolling in a Flight Technology program in college and undertaking flight training. As a dedicated student pilot and mother, she aims to become a Certified Flight Instructor and then an airline pilot by 2030. Anastasia is committed to supporting aspiring female aviators, fueled by her relentless passion and perseverance.



Palvinder Kaur

First Canadian Chapter, East Canada Section | Mentor: Chryselle D'Souza

I am very thankful to receive the First Wings award as I embark upon a new chapter of life after retiring as a professional engineer. I've always cherished life's simple joys and pursued joyful challenges, like skydiving in my youth, learning swimming and skiing later on, and paddling down 312 kilometers of the Yukon River. More recently I find fulfillment in serving communities through a charity (Langar Seva Meal & Support Services) that I founded 9 years ago, providing free meals to needy families. As I venture into aviation, I'm humbled by opportunities provided by the Ninety-Nines to learn and grow, embracing each step with immense gratitude.



Anita Kazarian

Lake Erie Chapter, North Central Section | Mentor: Lori Manthey

Born and raised in NYC to Armenian immigrant parents gave me an international world view. Trips to La Guardia or Idlewild (now JFK) to greet visitors were special but not unusual. The exotic and exciting planes were the GA planes on TV, like Sky King. As an older student pilot, I see the world new again, from the air. I was hooked on my Discovery flight and now am grateful to the women of my Lake Erie Chapter and NC Section who encourage, support and mentor me. The 99s opened yet another new world, one of community and friendship.

2024 Spring First Wings Scholarship Recipients



Ellen Kirby

Intermountain Chapter, Northwest Section | Mentor: Elsbeth Roach

Ellen has been drawn to the skies for as long as she can remember and always dreamed of flying jets across the country. She recently decided to leave her career as an educator to pursue her long time dream of becoming an airline pilot. She is completing her Private Pilot Certificate currently and is elated to be preparing for her first solo cross-country flight. She is honored to be a recipient of The First Wings Scholarship and is looking forward to completing her Private Pilot Certificate through the support of its funding before continuing with advanced ratings.



Julia Lindow

Eastern New England Chapter, New England Section | Mentor: Arlene Alexander

Born in Germany, I dreamed of becoming a pilot, but it seemed unachievable. Instead, I studied Geosciences, earned a PhD in Antarctic Geology, and lectured on expedition cruise ships sailing the polar regions. However, I kept looking up and the buzzing skies over my new home Cape Cod (USA) inspired me to transform my dream into a goal. Last year I started my private pilot training, and I am working toward becoming a professional pilot. Being part of the 99s deeply enriched my life and aviation journey. Thank you for the First Wings Award.



Lesly Lopez Fernandez

Dallas Chapter, South Central Section | Mentor: Kimberly Manasco

My name is Lesly Lopez, a Peruvian-born adventurer whose passion for travel led me to pursue a Bachelor's degree in tourism. After completing my studies, I embarked on a journey to the United States for an internship program. Currently I work full-time as a flight attendant for Southwest airlines, navigating the skies and creating memorable experiences for passengers. Inspired by my experiences in the air, I am now pursuing my dream of becoming a pilot. Thanks to this scholarship I will be able to obtain my private pilot license, aiming to soar to new heights in my aviation career.



Dhelal Mohammed

Sleeping Giant Chapter, East Canada Section | Mentor: Beth Robinson

My name is Dhelal Mohammed, I'm a student pilot at KBM Aviation in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Born and partially raised in Sudan, I migrated to Canada with my family at 13. My fascination with distant lands sparked a lifelong love for travel. Before pursuing pilot training, I worked extensively in social services and spent seven years as a flight attendant, where my passion for aviation truly flourished. I am grateful to be the recipient of the First Wings Award and the support of The 99s. My journey shows it's never too late to follow your dreams!

2024 Spring First Wings Scholarship Recipients



Christina Piper

Eastern New England Chapter, New England Section | Mentor: Leah Gosselin

I am an author, former professor, Navy veteran, and member of the New Hampshire Air National Guard. I work in combat crew communications in the Operations Group, working closely with the KC-46 pilots and aircrew. Joining the Guard made me realize I still wanted to pursue my dream of becoming a pilot. I started flight lessons last Fall. I plan to fly refueling planes with the Air Force, as active duty or Guard. My grandfather flew B-24's during WWII for the Army Air Corps, so I'm following his footsteps. This 99s award will help give me a running start.



Nisha Radtke

Santa Clara Valley Chapter, Southwest Section | Mentor: Maki Yu

Hi! My name is Nisha Radtke, I'm a sophomore at Cupertino High School and hold a student pilot certificate. I started my flight training when I was 13 with a discovery flight, and since then all I have wanted to do is fly. It was my 16th birthday recently and I had the opportunity to have my first solo flight! I aim to receive my Private Pilot License when I turn 17, which is why I am so grateful to receive the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship. Fly safe everyone!



Emma Toth

Waterloo on the Grand Chapter, East Canada Section | Mentor: Lauren Hannan

The world of aviation has always captivated me, sparked by my mother's career as a flight attendant with Air Canada. Her dedication and the experiences she shared as a single and successful mom have inspired my own journey in this field. Currently, as a second-year student at the Waterloo Wellington Flight Centre, the support from them and from my fellow Ninety-Nines has been instrumental. I am excited to take full advantage of this opportunity and look forward to supporting and inspiring my fellow Ninety-Nines as I pursue my dreams. Thank you for believing in my potential!



Zia Walther

Air Hearts Utah Chapter, Southwest Section | Mentor: Liz Jones

My name is Zia Walther, and I'm currently working on my PPL! Aviation has always been a big part of my life since I was a kid – my dad was a pilot and I guess a love for flying runs in the family. Despite growing up with aviation, I decided to go to college for International Studies, a different way to explore the world. However, shortly after I decided to give aviation a shot and signed up for flight school. I joined the Ninety-Nines shortly after beginning training and it's been one of the absolute best parts of this journey.

2024 Spring First Wings Scholarship Recipients



Leigha Woelffer

Long Beach Chapter, Southwest Section | Mentor: Andrea Garcia

Leigha is 25 years old and lives in Hermosa Beach, CA. Originally from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, she is an active-duty electrical engineer in the US Space Force. Her ultimate aviation goal is to attend pilot training and fly C-130s for the Air National Guard, where she can continue to serve her country. Leigha is humbled and thrilled to receive a First Wings Scholarship to complete her PPC and she is looking forward to many more experiences and adventures as a 99.



Mary Kay (Xuyan) Zhang

Colorado Chapter, South Central Section | Mentor: Naomi Chaqueco

I'm a student pilot training at Centennial Airport, Colorado. I'm deeply thankful for the First Wings Award scholarship. It fuels my passion for aviation and encourages me to excel in my training. I'm committed to giving my best and supporting 99s. Thank you for this opportunity.

The Ninety-Nines Museums

Visit both of the museum's websites to see how you can volunteer, donate money, or help out in other ways.



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www.ameliaearhartmuseum.org



THE NINETY-NINES
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www.museumofwomenpilots.org/

2024 International Awards

Three separate Awards of Achievement may be presented each year to members of the Ninety-Nines (living or deceased). The three awards are:

The Award of Achievement for Contributions to The Ninety-Nines – which recognizes a significant contribution to the mission of the 99s or any of the organization’s activities.

The Award of Achievement for Contributions to Aviation – which recognizes significant contributions to any facet of aviation/aerospace, such as education, science, history, commerce, legislation, etc.

The Award of Achievement for Humanitarian Efforts – which recognizes significant contribution through aviation, in a humanitarian effort.

Award of Merit (for non-Ninety Nines) an individual (male or female, living or deceased) or an organization in recognition for a significant contribution to any facet of aviation/aerospace, such as education, science, history, commerce, legislation, etc.

George Palmer Putnam Award Recognizes the support provided to The Ninety-Nines by an individual (male or female, living or deceased) or an organization.

Award of Inspiration (given by the International Board of Directors) to an individual, group, organization, or agency whose participation, achievements, or activities have had a significant impact on The Ninety-Nines, the world aviation community, or the art and science of aviation or aerospace.

President’s Award is given at the will of the current President.

2024 International Awards Judges



Janice Welsh
Award Chair
North Central Section



Dominique Estival
Governor,
Australia Section



Laurie Peake
Governor,
South Central Section



Jennifer Green
CEO, Battle-Proven Leadership
Lt. Col ANG



Trish Beckman
STEM Mentor
USN/Retired

Award of Achievement for Contributions to The Ninety-Nines

Laurene (Fielder) McEneny



Laurene (Fielder) McEneny was born in Michigan in 1958. She grew up on a small island south of Detroit called Grosse Ile. Although small, the island was home to one of the largest primary flight training stations for Naval aviators.

Laurene became fascinated with airplanes as a child by watching the constant flow of air traffic just above the family home. This love was encouraged by her father, Don Fielder, who served as an ATC in the U.S. Air Force. Eventually, the two of them would become licensed pilots, both training at the old Naval Station turned municipal airport (KONZ).

Laurene was issued her Private Pilot rating on December 30, 1977. Her father purchased a Piper PA-28R and began flying lessons in early 1978. Together they pursued their love of flying in Cherokee N2678R.

In December of 1978, Laurene graduated with a B.A. degree from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, MI. She joined the Ninety-Nines, Inc. on February 23, 1979. In the summer of 1979, Laurene was hired by General Electric and moved to Bethesda, MD.

Her life moved in another direction when she and two other people started a computer software company in Detroit in 1983. The company, American Tech, Inc., developed and sold the first PC-based procurement software, P.O. Writer Plus.

The '80s were a busy time. In 1985, Laurene would marry one of her initial business partners, Tim McEneny, and in 1987, she would become a mother to daughter Erika.

During the '80s and '90s the company grew steadily, transitioned to the Internet, expanded internationally, and was renamed PurchasingNet, Inc. In 2009, the company was sold to a large software company which allowed Tim and Laurene to retire.

After retiring and moving to Florida, Laurene began to fly again and rejoined the 99s. She also became involved with various organizations as she was determined to become an active volunteer.

Some of Laurene's regular volunteer activities include fundraising for flying scholarships, for the Susan G. Komen 3-Day, for the Community Foundation, and for The Real-Life Children's Ranch. She is the current Secretary for the Treasure Coast 99s.

Conference Sponsors



Award of Achievement for Contributions to Aviation

Dr. Barbara Gruber



Dr. Barbara Gruber serves as the leader of Education and Public Outreach at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory. With a fervent dedication to equity and inclusion in STEAM and Aviation fields, she tirelessly advocates for expanded opportunities for underrepresented communities. She designed, put together, and ran a novel aviation summer camp at the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum for disadvantaged middle school students in the DC, Maryland, and Virginia area called “S.H.E (Soar High Explorers) Can STEAM” Camp.

This initiative is focused on the impressionable middle school years when students, particularly girls, are exploring career options and teachers can shape student confidence and skills in STEAM. Through the activities of the camp, Barbara made a difference by empowering these students to seek and succeed in science, technology, engineering, and math disciplines.

In its first year, 2018, the S.H.E. Can STEAM summer camp gave 57 middle school students the chance to experience hands-on flight instruction on FAA-certified simulators, a 30-minute discovery flight with a local flight school, a high-altitude weather balloon launch to study the atmosphere, and an indoor skydiving experience. The campers met with women from a variety of aviation career fields, such as air traffic control, cyber security, and commercial aviation.

She did all the research to choose the appropriate flight simulators, acquired the simulators and provided technical support as needed. Barbara furthermore organized all the activities and design challenges. The 2-week camp activities included launching model rockets, touring FAA air traffic control facilities like Dulles Tower, Potomac Terminal Radar Approach Control (TRACON), and the Air Traffic Control System Command Center (ATCSCC), and visiting an aircraft mechanic school.

Barbara went above and beyond for her campers as she even used her kayak to rescue a camper’s instruments when her weather balloon landed in the river!

The camp was clearly a success, as it was repeated the next year with 60 campers. In the four years of camp, the camp has hosted 378 campers. Drawing from her rich background as a former Assistant Director of Education at the National Air and Space Museum, alongside her pursuit as a student pilot, Dr. Gruber embodies a commitment to inspiring and empowering diverse voices in the realms of science, exploration and aviation.

Award of Achievement for Humanitarian Efforts

Kelli O’Donnell



Kelli O’Donnell is a private pilot for land and sea and works as a marine biologist for NOAA Fisheries. She has been a member of The Ninety-Nines since 2016 and of the Florida Suncoast Chapter since 2017. In addition to her job, she is involved with humanitarian efforts by participating and inspiring others to become involved in conservation of endangered species via aviation.

Since 2019, Kelli has combined her love of sea and sky by volunteering with the non-profit Turtles Fly Too (TF2); an organization whose mission is to improve the survival rate of endangered species by engaging general aviation pilots to provide air transport for affected species and critical response teams. This reduces transport time and stress on the animals, which increases their chance for survival. Kelli

now serves as the TF2 Southeast pilot liaison organizing sea turtle rescue fly-ins, organizing logistics for and flying local and international sea turtle rescue flights, assisting with federal permitting needs, and recruiting 99s pilots. She's used her experience as a marine biologist and as a pilot to streamline efficiency between partners and alleviate concern over non-animal care specialists (pilots) being in charge of endangered species during flight by publishing a Protocol for Pilots Transporting Sea Turtles. This document is now used by multiple agencies and shared with Turtle Fliers before their first flight. It not only discusses the need to protect sea turtles being transported, but also outlines pilot safety. Additionally, she's used networking and facilitation skills to get approval to land at the restricted NASA Kennedy Space Center Shuttle Landing Facility for sea turtle releases and most recently assisted with organizing Georgia's largest sea turtle release where 99s Turtle Fliers were invited to participate returning sea turtles "home". She currently is investigating obtaining aircraft donations, more specifically an amphibious seaplane, to increase TF2's sea turtle release capability and the organization's funding and outreach opportunities.

To date, TF2 has transported over 6,000 sea turtles with Kelli transporting over 50 of those. She looks forward to continuing furthering TF2's mission, engaging new 99s Turtle Fliers, and flying sea turtles and other endangered species herself.

Award of Merit

Catherine Press



Cathy Press is a trailblazing aviator and CEO of Chinook Helicopters, a premiere flight training school headquartered in Abbotsford, British Columbia. In 2019, she was named one of Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 Award Winners by the Women's Executive Network.

With a passion for aviation inherited from her father, she achieved her first solo flight at just 16 years old, then quickly acquired her private, commercial pilot and helicopter licenses becoming one of only six women in Canada with this distinction at the time. Cathy was not only the first female helicopter flight instructor in Canada but currently the only person in the country that holds the "Transport Canada Pilot Examiner" status in both airplanes and helicopters. In 2023, Cathy achieved status as the first woman in Canada to become an EASA certified flight instructor in addition to holding her FAA ATPL and CAAC licence.

Through Cathy's drive to grow the company, Bell Helicopters announced the Bell 505 Dealership Agreement with Chinook Helicopters during the HAI Heli Expo in Anaheim which makes Chinook the first authorized Bell 505 dealership in Canada. Chinook also holds the status of a certified Robinson Dealership, with over 25 Robinson Aircraft sold under her leadership.

As a true leader in the aviation industry, she has been recognized for her outstanding achievements. She was awarded the W.A. 'Dub' Blessing Flight Instructor of the Year Award during the HAI Heli Expo. She has won numerous awards, including the Bank of Montreal's Innovation and Global Growth Award, the Enterprising Women of the Year Award by Enterprise Magazine, and the Back and Bevington Air Safety Award for the most significant contribution to air safety in British Columbia. She was awarded the DCAM Flight Instructor Safety and in 2021, given the Honorary Doctorate of technology at the University of the Fraser Valley for her longstanding commitment and contribution to the aviation industry. Her involvement in the aviation industry is truly inspiring as she is the Vice Chair for BCAC (BC Aviation Council), an Air Transport Association of Canada (ATAC) member and a board member of the IWF (International Women's Federation). She sits as the Chair of the Flight Training Committee for the Helicopter Association Canada (HAC) and on the Business Advisory Committees for the University of the Fraser Valley and the British Columbia Institute of Technology.

She is an inspirational figure who has made a significant impact on the aviation industry. Her commitment to excellence and her pioneering spirit continue to inspire new generations of pilots, and her achievements have paved the way for women in a traditionally male-dominated industry.

George Palmer Putnam International Award

Edward “The Legend” Marquet



Edward Marquet, a lawyer by trade, is widely known as “The Legend” because of his warmth, personality, and legal skills. He is a man after the true spirit of George Putnam - the faithful supporter of a flying wife. He has faithfully supported and encouraged the women pilots of the NOLA 99s since his wife joined the International 99s in 2008.

Their story is like the story of George and Amelia who were driving one day, and the car broke down. It wasn't George who could repair it, but Amelia. Ed is not the mechanical one in the family. However, he has developed his right seat duties that include assisting his wife with the radio as well as dialing in the transponder code and watching for carburetor icing. Ed is extremely proud of his wife, her 99s and all they have accomplished including her instrument and commercial ratings and the purchase of an airplane. He also suggested she go in the air races, always to polish her skills.

Ed does not miss a single NOLA 99s chapter meeting or event. He loves the camaraderie displayed in this group. He attended the Section Meetings and several International Conferences held in Pennsylvania, San Antonio, Germany, and South Carolina making friendships with many of the women pilots. Not to mention the New Orleans International Conference where he helped as they hosted it! Ed has attended the Forest of Friendship in Kansas with the NOLA Challenge twice and it was there he revealed his fight with Parkinson's. The chapter members say Ed is always smiling and making them laugh despite his debilitation. He has made a positive and playful impact among all the 99s. The young and old alike appreciate his presence. He even started a Nifty-Nines Message thread to spread encouragement to chapter members. Ed went so far as to honor his wife's involvement with the 99s by getting a tattoo of the NOLA 49 1/2 logo on his arm. The NOLA Chapter also recently honored him with their only Man of the Decade Trophy.



In Memory of Gene Nora Jessen (1937-2024)

*Ninety-Nines
International President
1986-1988*



First Woman Flight Instructor at University of Oklahoma

Air Racer

All Womens Transcontinental Air Race (1971) | Air Race Classic (1998-2014)

A First Lady Astronaut Trainee (“Mercury 13”)

Beech Aircraft Sales Demonstration Pilot

FAA Women in Aviation Advisory Board
(appointed by President Lyndon Johnson)

Idaho Aviation Hall of Fame

Author

Mother, Grandmother, Mentor, Friend

Award of Inspiration

Sisters of the Skies



Sisters of the Skies, Inc.: Empowering Black Women in Aviation.

Sisters of the Skies is a unique sisterhood dedicated to empowering and supporting professional black women pilots. Founded in 2017 by a group of passionate female aviators, Sisters of the Skies has rapidly grown into a leading platform for women of color in aviation, offering a wide range of resources, networking opportunities, and mentorship programs for women in all stages of their pilot training and careers. Their mission is to increase their sisterhood through scholarships, mentorship and outreach.

The founders of Sisters of the Skies recognized the underrepresentation of black women in the aviation industry and the unique challenges that female aviators face. Determined to create a supportive community for women in aviation, they established Sisters of the Skies with a mission to inspire, connect, and empower black women to excel in aviation.

One of the key initiatives of Sisters of the Skies is their mentorship program, which pairs experienced female aviators with aspiring pilots and aviation professionals. Through this program, black women in aviation can receive guidance, support, and valuable insights from mentors who have navigated the challenges of the aviation industry. This mentorship not only provides practical advice but also fosters a sense of camaraderie and solidarity among black women in aviation.

In addition to mentorship, Sisters of the Skies offers a range of resources and scholarships designed to support women in their pilot training and aviation careers. From scholarship opportunities to leadership development workshops, Sisters of the Skies equips women with the tools and knowledge they need to succeed in the aviation industry. The organization also hosts networking events, conferences, and webinars to connect black women in aviation and facilitate collaboration and knowledge-sharing.

Sisters of the Skies is committed to promoting diversity and inclusion in the aviation industry and advocating for equal opportunities for black women pilots. By raising awareness about the contributions of black women in aviation and providing a platform for women of color to thrive, Sisters of the Skies is driving positive change in the industry and inspiring the next generation of black female aviators.

In conclusion, Sisters of the Skies is a trailblazing organization that is making a significant impact on women in aviation. Through its mentorship programs, resources, and outreach efforts, Sisters of the Skies is empowering black women to soar to new heights in the aviation industry.

President's Award

The 99s Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative (PPLI)



This year's recipient of the President's Award is one of The Ninety-Nines, Inc.'s most distinguished programs. The dedicated members who have participated and driven this program forward over the years have generously invested their personal time and energy to enhance the success of fellow members.

Twenty years ago, the 99s Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative (PPLI) was launched to provide structured mentoring and career development for 99s members aiming for professional pilot careers and to develop future aviation leaders.

Conceived in 2003 by Jenny Beatty and Laura Smith, the idea for PPLI began after Jenny's presentation at The Ninety-Nines annual convention. Laura's question about a mentoring program sparked their collaboration, leading to the creation of PPLI. This program benefits commercially licensed women pilots pursuing professional careers by providing structured mentoring relationships. Participants commit to the program for 18 to 24 months, receiving and giving mentoring guidance.

Over the past two decades, PPLI has been enriched by the expertise of over 75 women pilot leaders, all 99s, from diverse aviation sectors. These mentors, hailing from the airline, military, corporate, government, and general aviation sectors, generously volunteer their time to share their knowledge and experience, helping mentees accelerate their career development through personalized mentoring.

"Without the PPLI I would not be where I am today. It was essential for me, to form a vision for my future and give me the confidence to achieve it. And most importantly, I would have never learned how important it is to give back and inspire other women in aviation!"

*Nicole Battjes
PPLI Graduate
CEO / Director of Operations
of a helicopter tour company
Chair of Helicopter Association International*

The core goals and structure of PPLI have remained unchanged. Since 2007, all team leads have been PPLI graduates, demonstrating the program's success and commitment to nurturing future aviation leaders. Graduates develop leadership, managerial, and organizational skills while contributing to the 99s and the aviation community.

A past team lead emphasized the importance of leadership, noting that corporations seek future captains, not just first officers. Participants spend one to four hours monthly on self-directed leadership activities, learning by doing.

Today, over 200 PPLI graduates from 15 nations and various U.S. and Canadian 99s Sections are making significant strides in their aviation careers. They hold leadership positions as captains at major airlines, corporate pilots, test pilots, airline operations managers, and more, a testament to the transformative power of PPLI.

PPLI will continue to be the world's premier mentoring program for 99s leaders in aviation.

Career Expo

Pilot Career Panel

Presented by the Ninety-Nines Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative

Saturday, July 6 | 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm | Location: Harbourfront Ballroom III

The Ninety-Nines Professional Pilot Leadership Initiative (PPLI) aims to accelerate the advancement of women in all pilot professions, facilitate dynamic mentoring, and enhance our leadership role in the aviation community. The program provides highly motivated 99s with the tools to develop their careers and leadership abilities. Are you seeking a pathway to a professional pilot career? Are you curious about how to fund and accomplish training perhaps in unconventional ways? Do you need some tips on how to overcome training and career challenges? PPLI is proud to present this half-day session just for you!

While this session will be of special interest to professional pilots, all Conference attendees are invited!

PPLI Presentation

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Laura Matheson, MedEvac Pilot

Laura Matheson works as a First Officer for a MedEvac operator in Winnipeg, Manitoba (Treaty 1) and is a 2022 PPLI Graduate. On her own time, she hosts, writes and researches for the Holding Short Podcast, an aviation podcast aimed at promoting diversity in aviation.

Laura has previously been the Co-Administrator and Social Media Coordinator for the Webster Memorial Trophy Competition, Canada's Top General Aviation Pilot Competition, and the Community Events Lead and Ontario Ambassador for Elevate Aviation, a women in aviation mentorship organization.

Ella Stersky, KingAir Captain for Air Inuit

Ella works for Air Inuit a Montreal Canada based company that helps connect Nunavik and northern Quebec communities in the safest possible ways. She graduated from the PPLI in 2020 and still contributes to this day. Past instructor and MedEvac Pilot, she enjoys exploring new sights while serving the country's northernmost communities.

Boeing Production Presentation

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Captain Jennifer Henderson: Lessons from a Test Pilot and How They Apply to You

Jennifer holds a BS in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Maryland and an MS in Systems Engineering from Johns Hopkins University. Jennifer graduated from the US Naval Test Pilot School (TPS) in 1999, flying over 30 different fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft. She became the lead government flight test engineer for the four-bladed UH-1Y Huey helicopter program for the USMC.

Jennifer joined The Boeing Company in 2005 as a Flight Test Director for the 787 commercial aircraft. She later served as the 737 Lead Production Pilot, an engineering project pilot for the 787-10 program, and the lead test pilot for the 737 MAX7 flight test program. As the Chief Pilot of Production, she continues to inspire aspiring aviators worldwide. Captain Jennifer Henderson's story is a testament to passion, hard work, and unwavering commitment.

Career Pilot Networking

Saturday, July 6 | 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm | Location: Coal Harbour Suite

Professional pilots are invited to the Hospitality Suite for informal conversation and networking.

Keynote Speakers



Opening Keynote Address

Elevating the Skies: Changing the Face of the Aviation Industry

Kendra Kincade

Thursday, July 4 | 8:00 am - 9:00 am | Location: Harbourfront Ballroom I and II

Sharing her own journey of overcoming fear and helping others do the same through the tool of aviation, Kendra Kincade is rooted in positivity and empowerment. Kendra has a talent for inspiring and motivating audiences as she shares her journey from homelessness to controlling the skies. Her contagious enthusiasm leaves audiences impassioned to embrace change and soar through their own challenges.

Kendra Kincade is an accomplished Canadian Air Traffic Controller, Honorary Colonel of the RCAF 417 Helicopter Squadron, and Director/Executive Producer of the documentary "Only Up." As Founder and President of Elevate Aviation, she has created the groundbreaking Elevate Aviation Learning Centre, fostering inclusivity in aviation for women and historically underrepresented individuals. Recently appointed Chair of the Alberta Aviation Council, Kendra is the first woman to hold this position in its 60-year history. Her remarkable achievements epitomize her commitment to advancing the aviation industry and promoting diversity.



Friday Keynote Address

Empowering Women to Lead the Next Generation of the RCAF

Major-General J.R. Speiser-Blanchet, CD

Deputy Commander, Royal Canadian Air Force

Friday, July 5 | 8:00 am - 8:45 am | Location: Harbourfront Ballroom I and II

Major-General Speiser-Blanchet enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces in 1990 and graduated from the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) in 1994 with a degree in Computer Engineering. Earning her pilot wings in March 1996, she joined 1 Wing where she qualified on the CH146 Griffon helicopter. Her operational and staff postings include 430e Escadron tactique d'hélicoptères in Valcartier, 1 Wing Headquarters in Kingston, 1 Canadian Air Division Headquarters in Winnipeg and 403 Helicopter Operational Training Squadron in Gagetown.

Major-General Speiser-Blanchet deployed as a helicopter pilot during United Nations and NATO missions in Haiti and Bosnia and was appointed Deputy Commander (Operations) for Joint Task Force-IMPACT in Kuwait. In Canada, she has deployed on domestic operations in response to regional emergencies and in support to other government agencies.

MGen Speiser-Blanchet has commanded at multiple levels throughout her career, including 403 Squadron, the Canadian Forces Intelligence Group and the Cadets and Junior Canadian Rangers Group. She has served in strategic staff appointments as military assistant to the Minister of National Defence and as the Special Advisor to the Chief of the Defence Staff.

A graduate of the Joint Command and Staff Program (JSCP) and the Defence and Strategic Studies Course (DSSC) in Australia, she holds a Masters degree in Defence Studies from RMC and a Masters degree in Politics and Policy from Deakin University. She was recently promoted to her current rank and appointed to the position of Deputy Commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Educational Seminars



This Girl's On 'Fires'

Angela Tanton

Thursday, July 4 | 9:15 am - 10:15 am | Location: Salon F

Wildfires in the northern hemisphere are growing in frequency and intensity, and can quickly endanger people's lives, homes and livestock. Fighting these fires is an orchestra of movement and coordination. Ground teams, helicopters, bird dogs and tankers all need to work together quickly and safely. As a C130 tanker pilot, Angela works as a part of an amazing fire-fighting team dropping retardant in support of the ground crews. Join Angela as she takes you into the world of aerial firefighting!

Angela Tanton has been flying for 30 years in a variety of roles that have taken her all over the world, from Canada to Saudi Arabia, the Maldives, Burma, Chile, Australia,

Africa, and the USA.



Improving General Aviation Safety: Learning From the Mistakes of Others

Kathy Fox

Thursday, July 4 | 9:15 am - 10:15 am | Location: Harbourfront Ballroom I and II

Kathy will outline the common types of GA accidents and the factors leading to such accidents using information gathered from Transport Canada (the Canadian equivalent of the FAA) and case studies based on investigations conducted by Canada's TSB (equivalent to the U.S. NTSB). Participants will be encouraged to share practices they have adopted to reduce the risk of accident and recommendations based on safety lessons they have learned.

Kathy Fox has jumped out of airplanes, controlled airplanes, and flown airplanes as a flight instructor and charter pilot. With over 50 years' experience in the aviation sector, Kathy has flown more than 5000 hours; previously served as VP, Operations at NAV CANADA; and currently serves as Chair of Canada's TSB. Amongst many accolades, Kathy was inducted into Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame (2016) and the WAI Pioneer Hall of Fame (2018).



From Grade 4 to CEO

Catherine Press

Thursday, July 4 | 10:45 am - 11:45 am | Location: Salon F

Cathy's journey defied convention and took her to great heights. Having left school after grade four to pursue flying lessons, Cathy's determination and entrepreneurial spirit have led her to become the CEO of a large and thriving flight school. Join Cathy as she tells her story of passion and focus to achieve her aviation goals when the odds were against her.

When only nineteen years old, Catherine Press achieved a rare milestone, becoming the first-ever female helicopter flight instructor in Canada. Her passion for aviation and unwavering dedication have shaped her life and inspired countless others to reach for the skies. Cathy's story is a testament to the power of resilience and the pursuit of one's dreams.

Educational Seminars



Back in the Air, After a Scare

Colette Morin

Thursday, July 4 | 10:45 am - 11:45 am | Location: Harbourfront Ballroom I and II

Colette's biggest fears as a pilot were having an aviation accident, losing a friend in an accident, or having a medical issue that affected her aviation medical. If one of those occurs, how do you cope and get back in the air again? Colette will share her story and anecdotes from others who have faced these challenges, fought through them, and learned once again to spread their wings and fly!

Colette Morin began flying at 26 for fun, but her hobby soon turned into a lifestyle and full-time business venture. She is the sole Owner, Chief Pilot and Chief Flight Instructor of Glacier Air in Squamish, BC. Over the past 30 years, Colette has flown 5000+ hours,

primarily single engine, VFR mountain flying throughout Western Canada, and has also flown across the USA, New Zealand, Australia, Mexico and Jamaica. As a volunteer time as a CASARA search pilot, she takes great pleasure in introducing females to the aviation industry and enjoys encouraging and mentoring pilots of all ages.



Things She Sees as a DPE

Judy Phelps

Friday, July 5 | 9:00 am - 10:00 am | Location: Ports of San Francisco / New York

Have you ever wanted to ask a DPE a question and not be judged? This is your opportunity! A Designated Pilot Examiner, Flight Instructor, and Flight School owner, Judy will discuss the process of preparing for a flight test. She will share hurdles that can be encountered during the process and give suggestions on how to address them. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion.

Judy Phelps is a Designated Pilot Examiner, Gold Seal Flight Instructor and Master CFII-Aerobatic. She is the co-owner of CP Aviation, a flight school in Santa Paula, CA. She was the 2011 National Certified Flight Instructor of the year and has flown over 12,000

hours. She has been active member of the Ventura County chapter of the Ninety Nines since 1999.

Ninety-Nines Networking and Leadership Support Seminars

Q and A with the AEMSF Trustees for AE Scholarship Chairs

Thursday, July 4 | 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm | Location: Port of New York

The Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Trustees offer Section and Chapter Scholarship Chairs the opportunity to meet them and learn more about the AE Scholarship application process.

Meet and Greet for First-Time Conference Attendees

Thursday, July 4 | 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm | Location: Coal Harbour Suite

Is this your first Ninety-Nines International Conference? Meet other first-time attendees for conversation before the Welcome Reception Thursday evening.

Laugh, Learn, Lead!

Friday, July 5 | 10:15 am - 11:45 am | Location: Harbourfront Ballroom III

This session is a “must” for all members! Enjoy robust table conversations and come away with fun ideas (“Laugh”), resources (“Learn”), and enthusiasm for sharing these ideas with your Chapters and Sections (“Lead”).

Educational Seminars

Flying for a Cause – Triple Feature!

Friday, July 5 | 9:00 am - 10:00am | Location: Salon F

Discover the transformative power of flying for a purpose. Join these three presenters as they explore the dynamic intersection of aviation and altruism, showcasing the innovative ways in which new horizons are unlocked by flying for nonprofit organizations. Whether you're passionate about aviation, philanthropy, or both, this presentation will illuminate the boundless potential of taking flight for the greater good.



Taking Flight for Volunteer Organizations

Eve Lopez

Eve Lopez is a CFI/CFII and an attorney. She is a member of the Los Angeles 99s and flies for three organizations which support aviation and philanthropy - Angel Flight West, Pilots N Paws, and Young Eagles.



Hope is In The Air

Lise Ashe

In Canada, healthcare is universal, but access is not. For the 30% of Canadians who live outside of urban centers, medical care can be difficult or impossible to access. With a background in nursing, and a love of aviation, Lise is passionate about marrying these two worlds. Learn how Hope Air provides access to the healthcare Canadians need regardless of where they live or their financial status.

Lise Ashe is a member of Hope Air's National Advisory Board and flies her Cessna 182 Amphibian in their annual fundraising expeditions, raising much-needed funds and recruiting other pilots to give back in the same way.



Amelia Air: Flying Shelter Pets to Freedom

Petra Janney

Petra always dreamt of learning to fly, but she never had a mission – until 2019, when pilot Dean Heistad shared how he had rescued their family dog, Amelia, in a Cessna. Petra saw a chance to leverage the aviation community to help more at-risk animals, and Amelia Air was born. Five years and thousands of rescued animals later, Petra shares her story to help others take to the skies, re-imagine their potential, and find a purpose that powers their lives.

Petra Janney is a pilot, nonprofit leader, and entrepreneur from Los Angeles. Her charity, Amelia Air, has flown thousands of pets to freedom in the US and Mexico since its inception in 2019. Petra is currently developing a software platform to remove barriers to pet adoption.

Optional Tour Times

Please meet in the lobby fifteen minutes before tour start time.

Wednesday, July 3

Victoria and Butchart Gardens | 7:00 am – 8:00 pm

Thursday, July 4

Discover Vancouver | 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Historic Gastown Food Walk | 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Friday, July 5

North Vancouver and Capilano Suspension Bridge | 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Historic Gastown Food Walk | 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Thank You Volunteers



WEST CANADA SECTION
The Ninety-Nines Inc
International Women Pilots

British Columbia Coast
Canadian Rockies
Alberta
Manitoba

*The West Canada Section welcomes
our 99 International Sisters and
guest to Vancouver!*



The Ninety-Nines
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE
& CAREER EXPO

WEST CANADA SECTION
The Ninety-Nines Inc
International Women Pilots

VANCOUVER
2024

Volunteers are the driving force of our organization. It would have not been possible to have this conference without the support of our volunteers who gave their time and their skills in support of this conference. The International Conference and Career Expo Committee and the West Canada Section appreciates everyone's hard work. Though we can not list everyone who volunteered, we do recognize each of you and value your contributions. Thank you for making the 2024 International 99s Conference a tremendous success.

Thank You

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*Looking forward to seeing you next July in
Burlington!*



The Ninety-Nines
**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
& CAREER EXPO**

July 9-13, 2025

Hilton Burlington Lake Champlain
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