“Aviation Offers Something for Everyone”

Growing up in the small town of Gwinn on Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, Brandi Flinn was never interested in a desk job. Instead, she spent her free time fixing cars with her dad in their garage. She knew she wanted a career where she could work with tools.

At 15, Brandi flew in a two-seat helicopter at the K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base air show in Michigan. Like so many others, one ride was all it took. After that first flight, she began to pursue a career in aviation.

“With my talent for working with tools and my passion for aviation, it was kind of a no-brainer,” Flinn says.

After high school, Flinn enrolled in the Aviation Maintenance Program at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, earning an associate’s degree in applied sciences in 2012. She was the first female president of the Aviation Maintenance Club and was named Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) Student of the Year for 2011–12.

Hoping to use the money for additional helicopter training, in 2015 Flinn applied for a Bill Sanderson AMT Scholarship from Helicopter Foundation International (HFI). The scholarship enabled her to pay for attending the Airbus AS350 B3 Airframe Field Maintenance Certification class.

You Can Make a Difference: Support HFI
DONATE AT HELICOPTERFOUNDATION.ORG

Founded in 1983, Helicopter Foundation International (HFI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to helping to educate future generations of helicopter professionals while preserving the rich heritage of vertical flight.

Giving to HFI is a tangible way to show your support for the helicopter industry and will help HFI offer scholarships and mentoring programs to pilot and maintenance students, as well as to document the helicopter industry’s founding pioneers.

Make a donation today at helicopterfoundation.org. Your gift to HFI is tax deductible as far as federal law permits, and HFI will ensure that all donors receive a receipt.

Questions? Contact Allison McKay, HFI vice president, at allison.mckay@rotor.org or 703-302-8476.
“Whether it’s a career or a secret passion, aviation is incredibly rewarding. There is such a wide variety of fields that aviation has to offer, with something for everyone,” Flinn says.

2017 HFI Scholarships
Each year, HFI offers as many as 19 scholarships for students pursuing careers as pilots or aviation maintenance technicians. If you or someone you know would qualify for an HFI scholarship, visit the HFI website at helicopterfoundation.org/scholarships to learn more or apply. Applications are accepted beginning June 2017.

Allison McKay is vice president of Helicopter Foundation International.

Upcoming HFI Events

SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT
All proceeds will fund scholarships for future pilots and mechanics
- Fuzzy Zoeller’s Covered Bridge Golf Club
  Sellersburg, IN • Sun., Feb. 28
  Check-in 10 AM
  Shotgun start 12:00 PM
  Register at rotor.org/golf

HERITAGE OF HELICOPTERS
Take a break from aviation’s latest on the HAI HELI-EXPO show floor and visit this display of vintage rotorcraft
- South Wing B Lobby,
  Kentucky Exposition Center
  March 1–3

ONLINE SILENT AUCTION
Support HFI’s missions of preserving the past, ensuring the future
- Bid 24/7 at www.biddingforgood.com/HFI
  Mon., Feb. 22, 12:00 PM EST
  Thu., Mar. 3, 4:00 PM EST

MENTORING PANELS
Receive career insight from helicopter industry professionals
- Maintenance Tech Mentoring Panel, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM, B104
- Pilot Mentoring Panel, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM, W Hall 5 & 8
- Industry Outreach to Students, 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM, W Hall 5 & 8

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