



Report for Kurt Belsten at KMLB

Region: Awards Consideration (includes report card)

Below is a summary of scores and feedback from all the usable evaluations which were submitted for you during the 2026 Flight Training Experience Award application period. Many flight training providers receive exceptionally high scores so we also share with you the distribution of the overall aggregate scores for comparison.

1. Eligibility

To be eligible for an award, you needed to receive at least 5 unique evaluations, each at least 80% complete

A survey response was considered 'usable' if the respondent answered at least 80% of the questions required for scoring.

A CFI was considered 'eligible' for an award if they received at least 5 unique, usable responses.

Average scores were based on all usable responses received and have been rounded where necessary.

Your percentile rank was calculated by comparing your score to scores of all other (nominated/eligible) CFIs. Percentile ranks were calculated at both national and regional levels and may have been rounded.

Your performance (percentile rank) compared to all other eligible CFIs in your region was one of many factors that informed award decisions.

You received 24 evaluations.

2. Free Responses

At the end of each evaluation, we ask the following open-ended question:

Why should or shouldn't your CFI win a Flight Training Experience Award?

3. Individual Overall Scores & Responses

Total Score	Student Review
86.00	<p>Recommendation for Instructor Kurt As a high-time, very experienced pilot, I've flown with many instructors over the years. Kurt stands out for his exceptional instruction, deep knowledge of aircraft systems, and ability to tailor training to the pilot's experience level. His discernment and teaching style challenged me in ways that helped refine and expand my own skills. I strongly recommend Kurt to any pilot seeking not only to meet requirements but to truly grow in proficiency and confidence.</p>
84.00	<p>Kurt Belsten is the embodiment of a person that SHOULD. I don't necessarily believe in perfection, but when it comes to training and education, I do. Kurt is the epitome of this notion. When it comes to training, Kurt expects perfection, need not be on the first try, or the second. To Kurt, sufficient knowledge in a subject is by taking the knowledge required by the FAA and building levels upon it. For example, we don't just care about how the ear canal works, but the type of fluid in it, and how it was created along evolution. This level that a teacher holds for the student, doesn't seem to exist much anymore. This is a trait of Kurt that needs to be celebrated and recognized.</p>
88.00	<p>Kurt embodies everything that makes a truly great flight instructor. He has skill, patience, passion, and dedication. His lifelong commitment to aviation education has inspired countless pilots and instructors, shaping safer, more knowledgeable aviators across generations. He doesn't just teach flying; he builds confidence, character, and professionalism in everyone he mentors. There's no one more deserving of Instructor of the Year.</p>

	He should win the award because: Almost every instructor I've met in this industry is focused on building hours and moving on to the airlines — but Mr. Kurt Belsten is different. He's an instructor because he genuinely loves his job and aviation itself. He's deeply committed to creating a safer and stronger industry through the effort and dedication he puts into his work. He truly enjoys seeing his students succeed and grow in an ever-changing aviation world. Mr. Belsten is one of the most — if not the most — knowledgeable instructors I've ever met. But knowledge alone isn't what makes him exceptional; it's his ability to share it effectively. He has a rare talent for putting himself in his students' shoes, understanding their challenges from the root, and teaching in a way that truly connects. When working with future instructors, he takes this a step further — guiding them through real-world scenarios and preparing them to be exceptional teachers themselves. That's why I believe he's not just the best candidate for this award in the region, but one of the best in the entire country.
90.00	
87.00	Kurt is an up-to-date, attention earning instructor. He teaches to the needs of his students and always finds the root cause of deficiencies in student performance. Kurt has a passion for learning and strives to help his students and peers develop the same.
83.00	Since I started training with Kurt my flying has improved and my aviation knowledge has grown significantly. He treats each of his students as individual and cares about their progress. He truly is an expert instructor and helps his students to grow their piloting skills. He encourages risk management skills in his students and has made me a safer and more competent pilot.
90.00	Should win the Flight Training Experience award due to being very knowledgeable in all aspects of aviation, as well as being a highly respected and experienced pilot in a large community.
88.00	I cannot recommend Kurt Belsten enough! From day one, he made every lesson informative, engaging, and fun. His knowledge, patience, and ability to explain complex concepts in a way that makes sense truly set him apart. Whether it was ground school, maneuvers, or prepping for checkride success, he was there every step of the way. Absolutely top-tier instruction!
88.00	I feel I received a superior course of training with Kurt. He is definitely one of the most knowledgeable, thorough flight and ground instructors in the area, and I think my fellow students would agree.
90.00	Kurt should win an award because he is the most knowledge and attentive CFI there is. It feels like he knows everything and even when he doesn't, he works hard to understand something so he can then teach it. Kurt has been an amazing instructor that has made me a better and more rounded pilot.
90.00	Kurt Belsten is a fellow CFI and Check Instructor at Melbourne Flight Training. Kurt has been my CFI instructor, colleague, and close friend since January 2021. Kurt has almost singlehandedly raised the teaching standards of this flight school to an industry leading level. Because of Kurt Belsten, our flight school now has a national reputation for "depth of knowledge" for which we pride ourselves immensely. Students come to Melbourne Flight Training from other schools because they crave our standards knowing they will become more complete, well rounded, professional pilots. Specifically, CFI Candidates come from around the Country to Kurt Belsten because they know he is the best, and they will graduate as a terrific CFI. This is why he is an AOPA Southern Region Distinguished Flight Instructor for 2022-2023; the Flight Instructor of the Year for 2023-2024, and the Distinguished Flight Instructor for 2024-2025! This is why Kurt Belsten is deserving of (another) AOPA Flight Training Experience Award.
90.00	I was in Kurt's CFI ground school and I can confidently say that he is the best instructor I have ever had the pleasure to learn from. He is extremely professional but teaches aviation as it should be taught and with passion. Kurt's experience is unmatched and he transfers that into all lessons he teaches. I highly recommend Kurt for this award!
88.00	The difference between Kurt and every other instructor I've ever had is that it doesn't matter how good you are as an instructor or pilot, Kurt can find a fundamental skill or topic of your that can be greatly improved. The only reason we hire CFI's is to become better pilots and Kurt does that in a way that's rewarding, fun, and efficient,
89.00	Kurt is the text book definition aviation professional. He is one of the best CFIs that I have ever had. His attention to detail, constant motivation and push for me to be better every lesson whether that be a ground or flight has been invaluable in my aviation journey. I appreciate Kurt's honesty and dedication to his craft is evident day in and out, he beats me to the school before lessons and ensures that there is no confusion prior to and after lessons. I feel more confident each day, know that I will succeed in my check-ride and any stage checks along the way because he has prepared me beyond the minimum to pass.

88.00	This instructor is the model for how all instructors should treat the craft. With passion, respect, and dedication. This is the type of instructor that molds the future of flight instructing. The amount of knowledge that is shared during lessons is worth ANY price tag. I have been in aviation for several years now and have decided to get my instructing certifications and have never had an instructor as intelligent as Kurt which has provided me with motivation and excitement to continue raising the bar for myself to become the best instructor I can be. I owe a lot of what my career can be to this instructor.
88.00	Kurt was my instructor for CFI. The amount of knowledge and skill I gained training with him is monumental. I feel that I am a much better pilot and instructor because of him.
81.00	Kurt is not only extremely knowledgeable and his grasp of information so good, but he's masterful in a smooth presentation of the material. Discussions encourage a high level correlation for students going well beyond mere understanding or application. While many in the aviation community may dread required ground, Kurt's ground school is nearly equal parts entertainment in comparison to his knowledge. The environment of his class and teaching style is thoroughly engaging. There's pure joy and enthusiasm in his classes and enthusiasm for instilling the same in his students.
87.00	Kurt is by far the most knowledgeable & personable instructor I have had the pleasure to be a student for.
84.00	Extremely knowledgeable with an innate ability to explain/demonstrate numerous complex concepts and facts in a number of ways that cater to the students learning style. Holds a high standard but is fair, fun, and you can tell there is a genuine care for students success.
88.00	The most knowledgeable instructor I've ever had and I think most other students agree. Has made learning very easy to digest and understand even at a higher levels of knowledge.
85.00	Kurt is a great instructor, very smart, knows many ways to present the information to the student, he's got a ton of plane parts and props to help the students conceptualize different concepts such as gyroscopic procession. He also has parts of the engine and instruments. He teaches a great cfi ground school and molds very fine CFI's.
90.00	Kurt is the epitome of what a flight instructor should be. He is thought provoking, he is extremely knowledgeable, and he commands the attention of all in the room. There were individuals that attended his CFI ground school months in a row because he knows SO MUCH! Kurt truly has taught me so much and I am very grateful to have crossed paths with him during my flight training. He has the ability to help even those struggling the most understand complex topics and he is patient the whole time. He also has amazing examples that tend to stay on the mind and can be passed down from instructor to student. I cannot stress more how amazing of an instructor he is!!!!
90.00	Kurt is a phenomenal instructor. I had the pleasure of training with him for basically my entire CFI training. One of the many facets that make Kurt a great instructor is his willingness to go the extra mile to make sure that you the student understood the concept he was teaching about. He also was excellent at pushing students to become professional aviators by having them learn the material through all levels learning and enforcing the Application and Correlation levels. I believe Kurt is a safe, knowledgeable, and professional pilot who has developed a method of teaching that challenges pilots to become the best aviators they can be.
90.00	Being new to the aviation community in Melbourne Fl, Kurt took every chance he could to introduce me to those at the flight school and national organizations. Additionally, when it comes to ensuring concepts are fully understood, welfare both in and outside of the classroom, and gaining practical experiences by far Kurt outshines the rest. Over the course of my time training with him he has demonstrated time and time again his dedication to creating better pilots by ensuring the pilots he trains are well versed and extremely knowledgeable on what it takes to be a good pilot and if or when they become instructors, how to train & develop safe pilots. I strongly recommend Mr. Belsten for this award and to anyone searching for an instructor with a wealth of knowledge and training that is focused on developing your awareness for risk/safety while within a safe enjoyable atmosphere.

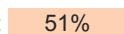
4. Aggregate Overall Score (Range: 0 to 100)

This is the overall score you received from your customers in the 2026 Flight Training Experience Award application period:

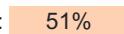
Your Score: 88

4.1 Compared to All Nominees (those with at least 1 evaluation)

National Average: 87

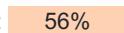
Your national percentile ranking:  51%

Regional Average:  87

Your regional percentile ranking:  51%

4.2 Compared to All Eligible Nominees (those with at least 10 evaluations)

National Average:  88

Your national percentile ranking:  56%

Regional Average:  88

Your regional percentile ranking:  56%

5. SubScore Summary for all

Region: Awards Consideration (includes report card)

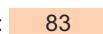
The remaining sections summarize your individual subscores (range: 0 to 100) as they apply to each of the four areas from our Flight Training Experience Research: Educational Quality, Customer Focus, Community, and Information Sharing. You will also find national and regional averages, for benchmarking.

Subscore Summary:

	Your Score	National Avg
Educational Quality	83	86
Customer Focus	83	86
Community	79	82
Information Sharing	78	83
NetPromoter Score	100	96
Overall Total	73	76

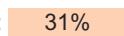
6. Educational Quality Scale (Range: 0 to 100)

This is the score you received from your customers, derived solely from the questions related to Educational Quality; offering effective training from professional instructors who are dedicated to students' success

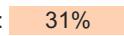
Your Score:  83

6.1 Compared to All Nominees (those with at least 1 evaluation)

National Average:  86

Your national percentile ranking:  31%

Regional Average:  86

Your regional percentile ranking:  31%

6.2 Compared to All Eligible Nominees (those with at least 10 evaluations)

National Average:  86

Your national percentile ranking:  31%

Regional Average:  86

Your regional percentile ranking:  31%

6.3 Responses per Question

My CFI consistently used a training syllabus that I could consult.

Response Choice	Frequency	%
Strongly Agree	23	95.83%
Neither agree nor disagree	1	4.17%

My CFI tailored their lessons plans to accommodate my personal strengths and weaknesses.

Response Choice	Frequency	%
Strongly Agree	23	95.83%
Somewhat Agree	1	4.17%

I felt safe flying with my CFI.

Response Choice	Frequency	%
Strongly Agree	24	100%

My CFI helped me feel prepared for unexpected situations in flight.

Response Choice	Frequency	%
Strongly Agree	24	100%

7. Customer Focus Scale (Range: 0 to 100)

This is the score you received from your customers, derived solely from the questions related to Customer Focus; adding value by demonstrating professionalism and engagement with students

Your Score: 83

7.1 Compared to All Nominees (those with at least 1 evaluation)

National Average: 86

Your national percentile ranking: 33%

Regional Average: 86

Your regional percentile ranking: 33%

7.2 Compared to All Eligible Nominees (those with at least 10 evaluations)

National Average: 85

Your national percentile ranking: 33%

Regional Average: 85

Your regional percentile ranking: 33%

7.3 Responses per Question

My CFI patiently helped me understand difficult concepts.

Response Choice	Frequency	%
Strongly Agree	24	100%

I feel like my CFI made efficient use of my time.

Response Choice	Frequency	%
Strongly Agree	24	100%

My CFI was not invested in my success.

Response Choice	Frequency	%
Strongly Disagree	24	100%

My CFI was reliable and on-time for scheduled lessons

Response Choice	Frequency	%
Strongly Agree	24	100%

8. Community Focus Scale (Range: 0 to 100)

This is the score you received from your customers, derived solely from the questions related to Community; emphasizing social connections and accomplishments.

Your Score: 79

8.1 Compared to All Nominees (those with at least 1 evaluation)

National Average: 82

Your national percentile ranking: 39%

Regional Average: 82

Your regional percentile ranking: 39%

8.2 Compared to All Eligible Nominees (those with at least 10 evaluations)

National Average: 82

Your national percentile ranking: 41%

Regional Average: 82

Your regional percentile ranking: 41%

8.3 Responses per Question

After training with my CFI, I feel like a member of the general aviation community.

Response Choice	Frequency	%
Strongly Agree	23	95.83%
Neither agree nor disagree	1	4.17%

My instructor expressed that people like me should not fly.

Response Choice	Frequency	%
Strongly Agree	1	4.17%

Neither agree nor disagree	5	20.83%
Somewhat Disagree	1	4.17%
Strongly Disagree	17	70.83%

My CFI introduced me to students, new pilots, and members of the local aviation community.

Response Choice	Frequency	%
Strongly Agree	22	91.67%
Somewhat Agree	1	4.17%
Neither agree nor disagree	1	4.17%

My CFI shared relevant information to help me continue flying after training (e.g. how to find flying clubs, purchase an aircraft, or start an aviation career)

Response Choice	Frequency	%
Strongly Agree	22	91.67%
Somewhat Agree	2	8.33%

9. Information Sharing Scale (Range: 0 to 100)

This is the score you received from your customers, derived solely from the questions related to Information Sharing; educating and empowering students to make informed decisions about flight training investments.

Your Score: 78

9.1 Compared to All Nominees (those with at least 1 evaluation)

National Average: 83

Your national percentile ranking: 30%

Regional Average: 83

Your regional percentile ranking: 30%

9.2 Compared to All Eligible Nominees (those with at least 10 evaluations)

National Average: 83

Your national percentile ranking: 29%

Regional Average: 83

Your regional percentile ranking: 29%

9.3 Responses per Question

I always understood the steps required to reach my flight training goals with my CFI.

Response Choice	Frequency	%
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Strongly Agree	23	95.83%
Neither agree nor disagree	1	4.17%

My flight training with my CFI has required more time and/or money than I expected.

Response Choice	Frequency	%
Strongly Agree	1	4.17%
Somewhat Agree	2	8.33%
Neither agree nor disagree	8	33.33%
Somewhat Disagree	1	4.17%
Strongly Disagree	12	50%

Sometimes I did not know what my flight lessons would cover.

Response Choice	Frequency	%
Neither agree nor disagree	1	4.17%
Somewhat Disagree	2	8.33%
Strongly Disagree	21	87.5%

My CFI introduced me to online resources (like flight planning tools or weather sources) and showed how they can be used to aid my decision making.

Response Choice	Frequency	%
Strongly Agree	24	100%

10. Net Promoter Score

10.1 Questionnaire Responses

The Net Promoter Score is generated by asking customers how likely they would be to recommend a given product or service - in this case, your services as a flight instructor to another potential customer, on an 11 point scale.

How likely are you to recommend your CFI to someone interested in flight training?

Response Choice	Frequency	%
10	24	100%

10.2 NPS Grouping

Responses to this question are then used to sort customers into one of three groups:

Detractor: Less likely to use your services again and may not speak highly of your services to others.

Passive: Generally somewhat satisfied, passive respondents likely won't help or hurt your business in talking to other people.

Promoters: Ideally, all of your customers would be promoters. Promoters would fly with you again in the future and would tell others how great they think you are.

Response Choice	Frequency	%
Promoter	24	100%

10.3 Standardized Score Calculation

The overall Net Promoter Score is calculated by subtracting the percentage of your customers who are 'detractors' from the percentage of your customers you are 'promoters.' Thus, the overall Net Promoter Score can range from - 100 to 100.

For more information on the Net Promoter Score and how to interpret it, check out: <https://www.medallia.com/net-promoter-score>

Your Score:  100

10.3.1 Compared to All Nominees (those with at least 1 evaluation)

National Average:  96

Your national percentile ranking:  60%

Regional Average:  96

Your regional percentile ranking:  60%

10.3.2 Compared to All Eligible Nominees (those with at least 10 evaluations)

National Average:  98

Your national percentile ranking:  63%

Regional Average:  98

Your regional percentile ranking:  63%