Report for Sammy Werderich at Kdpa

Region: Great Lakes

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 20 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
90.00	He is extremely passionate about aviation and you can tell with every single lesson
86.00	Sammy is one of the most skilled, knowledgable, and professional CFI's I have ever had the opportunity to receive instruction from.
90.00	He has been one of the most reliable, helpful, and kind instructors I've worked with
90.00	As a fellow flight instructor, I've had the opportunity to observe many educators in action and Sammy Werderich stands out as one of the most dedicated and impactful instructors I've seen. What impresses me most about Sammy is his consistent ability to connect with students in a way that builds both confidence and competence. He brings a calm, methodical approach to every lesson, paired with a genuine enthusiasm for aviation that clearly resonates with those he teaches. His students don't just learn—they thrive. Instructors like Sammy raise the bar for all of us. He takes the time to tailor his instruction to each individual, ensuring they're not only prepared for checkrides but for a safe and successful future in aviation. His professionalism, mentorship, and high instructional standards embody the spirit of what the AOPA Flight Training Experience Award is all about. It's a privilege to work alongside someone so committed to excellence. I wholeheartedly support Sammy Werderich's nomination.

83.00	I believe that Sammy Werderich deserves this award because of his commitment to his students and his care for their future. He was my Instrument Instructor during the winter of 2024-2025 and I couldn't recommend another instructor more than Mr. Werderich as I felt very respected and validated while learning to fly instrument with him.
90.00	Sammy is a phenomenal instructor. Not only is he a very skilled pilot, he also has the "knack" for teaching. He allows students to make the mistakes, with safety in mind, and then calmly teaches/talks them through the exercise. He asks thought provoking questions, and challenges students to actually think, not just regurgitate information.
90.00	Very nice and supportive.
90.00	I believe that Sammy has been the best instructor I've had throughout my flight training. From the very first day, he showed genuine enthusiasm for helping me learn and succeed. He consistently went above and beyond to ensure I fully understood every lesson, and he always made himself available whether by text, call, or in person to answer questions or provide extra guidance. Sammy's dedication, patience, and passion for aviation truly set him apart, and I wouldn't be the pilot I am today without his support.
90.00	Sammy is dedicated towards building his students into professional pilots.
90.00	Sammy was my instructor for my instrument rating, and he was extremely dedicated and patient throughout my training. He made sure I was well-prepared for my checkride through thorough ground lessons and focused flight sessions. He always took the time to explain things clearly and made learning enjoyable. Thanks to his guidance, I felt confident and ready when I took my IR checkride.
88.00	Sammy should win this award because he's an excellent instructor. Sammy goes above and beyond for his students and teaching multi engine personally to me I have learned a lot.
90.00	Sammy should win the Flight Training Experience Award for his dedication to the new 141 multi-engine program at our school. He meets with the local DPEs to see how we can improve our program and with the local TRACON to relay to the instructor population how to better accommodate ATC and practice approaches.
88.00	I think Sammy is a very devout aviator who loves to continue to learn about the field as well as spreads that joy to other colleagues and students around him
88.00	Very knowledgeable on all flight training he provides on the ground and in flight. He has an appropriate instruction style that is tailored to specific students. Sammy goes above and beyond to ensure student success and genuinely cares about each student that he encounters. He is my first point of contact that I reach out to when I have questions about how to teach my students better. When I did my training with Sammy I knew what was expected of me and what to expect from each lesson and timeline to reach my goals. Sammy consistently provided me with opportunities and additional material to enhance my aeronautical knowledge and safety procedures. He is very patient with his students and ensures that they understand all concepts to produce pilots that are safe and able to make aeronautical decisions in the future. Sammy is the epitome of an instructor that all others should strive to be.
83.00	This instructor always goes above and beyond. While this is a common phrase Sammy encapsulates this where others in his same position would most likely not. Sammy is a young instructor and his dad is the owner of the flight school I work at. That being said, he still operates with more integrity and resolve than most in his same position, and he continues to do this at only 21. I score him a 9 simpley because his only negative quality is he is 21 and operates like a young CEO.
90.00	Sammy should win a Flight Training Experience Award because Sammy cares greatly about his students' success. He goes above and beyond to teach students in the style of learning that works for them. He knows each student individually, and works with them to help them reach their aviation goals. He's always willing to put in extra time and energy for a student who may be struggling, and is just as excited for their achievements as the students are. He works hard to help build students into safe and great pilots, pushing them to be their best, while also exhibiting great patience. Sammy is a friendly face to all staff and students at Illinois Aviation - he's contributed greatly to a positive environment for students and instructors.

89.00	Sammy and I met as mutuals teaching at the same flight school. I didn't know much about him but he was always very kind and considerate to anyone who met him, so much so that I even considered him a friend despite not knowing him very well. He was so humble in fact that I didn't realize he was the son of the flight school's founder until later. It was just his demeanor and personality which made him very inviting. A few months later I ended up flying with him as he was one of the only MEIs at the school and I wanted to build some Multi time. I had my commercial Multi but not my MEI as of yet. I honestly didn't have any plans to get it either, as I just wanted to build time for my ATP mins. However when we first got to the airplane he did a full walk around and explained the aircraft to me with high quality instruction. He didn't have to do this as we were just there to build time but he still went through with diligent effort to make sure I understood the airplane and how to operate it. It was this enthusiasm that got me to really enjoy the experience and motivated me to get my MEI. I later texted him that I would like to start my training with him as my instructor and it very quickly turned into my most exciting training endeavor. Sammy always made sure that I understood everything that was going on and was extremely patient, allowing me to mess up to learn from my mistakes. As a flight instructor with 1000+ dual given myself I understand how much effort and resilience he displayed during our training. I see no other possible instruction worthy of this award in my humble opinion.
86.00	Sammy is very caring about his students. At his age, Sammy is very knowledgeable about aviation and is able to teach it to his students in a very educational manner. Sammy is one of the first people that I reach out whenever I have a question about aviation.
90.00	He's really knowledgeable and relatable.
90.00	Sammy should win this award because he is an excellent flight instructor. He's goes above and beyond to make sure his students understand the materials.

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: 89

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

National Average: 86
Your national percentile ranking: 81%

Regional Average: 85
Your regional percentile ranking: 90%

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

National Average: 87
Your national percentile ranking: 90%

Regional Average: 87
Your regional percentile ranking: 93%

5. SubScore Summary for at Kdpa

Region: Great Lakes

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	100	98
Customer Focus	100	97
Community	96	92

Information Sharing	98	94
NetPromoter Score	100	95
Overall Total	99	95

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: 100

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

National Average: 98
Your national percentile ranking: 57%

Regional Average: 99
Your regional percentile ranking: 57%

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

National Average: 99
Your national percentile ranking: 64%

Regional Average: 99
Your regional percentile ranking: 50%

6.3 Responses per Question

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

Response Choice	Frequency	%
Strongly Agree	18	90%
Somewhat Agree	2	10%

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

Response Choice	Frequency	%
Strongly Agree	20	100%

I felt safe flying with my CFI.

Response Choice	Frequency	%
Strongly Agree	20	100%

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

Response Choice	Frequency	%
Strongly Agree	20	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: 100

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

National Average: 97
Your national percentile ranking: 83%

Regional Average: 95
Your regional percentile ranking: 90%

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

National Average: 98
Your national percentile ranking: 89%

Regional Average: 98
Your regional percentile ranking: 86%

7.3 Responses per Question

My CFI patiently helped me understand difficult concepts.

Response Choice	Frequency	%
Strongly Agree	20	100%

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

Response Choice	Frequency	%
Strongly Agree	20	100%

My CFI was not invested in my success.

Response Choice	Frequency	%
Strongly Disagree	20	100%

My CFI was reliable and on-time for scheduled lessons

Response Choice	Frequency	%
Strongly Agree	20	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: 96

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

National Average: 92
Your national percentile ranking: 65%

Regional Average: 91

Your regional percentile ranking: 90%

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

National Average: 94
Your national percentile ranking: 69%

Regional Average: 94
Your regional percentile ranking: 93%

8.3 Responses per Question

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

Response Choice	Frequency	%
Strongly Agree	19	95%
Somewhat Agree	1	5%

My instructor expressed that people like me should not fly.

Response Choice	Frequency	%
Strongly Agree	1	5%
Neither agree nor disagree	4	20%
Somewhat Disagree	2	10%
Strongly Disagree	13	65%

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

Response Choice	Frequency	%
Strongly Agree	18	90%
Somewhat Agree	2	10%

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	19	95%
Somewhat Agree	1	5%

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: 98

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

National Average: 94
Your national percentile ranking: 79%

Regional Average: 92

Your regional percentile ranking: 83%

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

National Average: 95
Your national percentile ranking: 88%

Regional Average: 95
Your regional percentile ranking: 79%

9.3 Responses per Question

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

Response Choice	Frequency	%
Strongly Agree	20	100%

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

Response Choice	Frequency	%
Neither agree nor disagree	1	5%
Somewhat Disagree	3	15%
Strongly Disagree	16	80%

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

Response Choice	Frequency	%
Somewhat Disagree	2	10%
Strongly Disagree	18	90%

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	20	100%

10.Net Promoter Score

10.1 Questionaire 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	18	90%
9	2	10%

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	20	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: 95
Your national percentile ranking: 60%

Regional Average: 84
Your regional percentile ranking: 63%

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

National Average: 97
Your national percentile ranking: 62%

Regional Average: 97
Your regional percentile ranking: 57%