I am incredibly grateful to the Michigan Business Aviation Foundation for selecting me to be the recipient of this year’s ATP/CTP Scholarship. Currently, I am the Chief Flight Instructor at Flyby Air in Holland at the West Michigan Regional Airport where I have the responsibility of managing a premier flight training program to serve our students’ diverse training needs. In addition to my role with Flyby Air, I have also been able to achieve my dream job as a contract corporate pilot for a local company. Just a few weeks ago, I completed my Bachelor of Science in Aviation and a minor in Business with Liberty University Online, and I intend to pursue my Masters of Business Administration within the next year to help prepare me for my ultimate career goal as a Director of Aviation for a corporate flight department.

My passion for aviation first began in high school when I participated in an EAA Young Eagles flight. Ever since that moment, I have been fierce in my pursuit of flying. I began working at the West Michigan Regional Airport as a senior in high school, and I fell in love with business aviation. The summer after my senior year, I began taking flight lessons with Tulip City Air Service (now Flyby Air), and in about four years I was able to obtain my private pilot license, instrument rating, commercial single and multi-engine licenses, CFI, CFII, and two SIC type-ratings. My training has not always been filled with blue skies and tailwinds, but I would not trade my experiences for the world. I treasure getting to share the lessons I have learned with my students to help them overcome whatever obstacles come in their way. With passion and self-discipline, anything can be accomplished.

Thank you so much to the mentors who have encouraged me along the way and the Michigan Business Aviation Foundation for supporting my pursuit of business aviation through the ATP/CTP Scholarship.