

# WEST MICHIGAN AVIATION ACADEMY FOUNDATION



Winter 2026  
Alumni Update

## Please Share Five Minutes of Your Time!

As we celebrate 15 years of shaping leaders, we are gathering information to better understand your journey since you graduated from WMAA.

### Your responses will help us:

-  Demonstrate impact to donors and grant partners
-  Strengthen aviation and engineering pathways
-  Inspire current and future students

Your story is part of WMAA's legacy of excellence and vision.

Please scan the QR code to complete a short survey prior to April 15. Thank you for taking the time to share your journey with us. We are grateful to remain part of your story.



**Scan the QR code to complete  
our 5-minute survey.**

*"WMAA has reclaimed what has been lost in so many schools. The platform of this school allows kids to move to the next level."*

—John Hodgson, WMAA Foundation Donor

## Let's Connect

As we complete our 15<sup>TH</sup> year, WMAA now has a robust and accomplished alumni base. We want to help you stay connected to your fellow alumni so you can inspire and support each other, while encouraging current students.

Want to stay engaged with news, events and opportunities?  
**Please visit [wmaafoundation.org/alumni](http://wmaafoundation.org/alumni) and provide your contact information so we can keep in touch.**  
We look forward to hearing about your accomplishments and adventures since you graduated!

## WMAA Foundation Family and Alumni Engagement Committee

**Jeff England**, WMAA Parent  
**Meggan George**, Director of Development & Marketing  
Taylor Hall, Class of 2020  
**Ryan Minnick**, Class of 2022  
**Dawn Norman**, WMAA Alumni Parent  
**Terry Russell**, WMAA Foundation Board President  
**Winston Weibel**, Class of 2018



Danielle Topolinski, Class of 2025

# Celebrating 15 Years of Legacy, Excellence and Vision

## Our Early Years (2010-2015)

- WMAA opened with 80 students.
- Aviation was an offsite, extracurricular option.
- We introduced our first engineering and robotics courses.
- We acquired our first plane.
- The first seniors graduated in 2014.
- Our first three students earned a private pilot license in 2014.
- We expanded our building to serve a growing student population.
- Private pilot flight training became part of the curriculum in 2015.
- We reached maximum enrollment (620 students) in 2015.

*"We entered our second decade with a true commitment to our mission and an unapologetic clarity about what we stand for and who we are. We have operationalized our mission and values as a guiding framework for the organization, allowing individuals to find their place within it and contribute in their own unique way."*

—Nicole Gasper, CEO,  
West Michigan Aviation Academy

*"I've often said, 'The higher your altitude, the broader your horizon.' That's been my hope for every WMAA student—to give them the chance to rise higher, explore further, and see possibilities they might never have imagined. Watching this school soar and seeing the lives it has touched is one of the greatest joys of my life."*

—Dick DeVos, Founder and Board President,  
West Michigan Aviation Academy

## Where We Are Now

- WMAA students represent 30 or more countries of origin.
- We receive twice as many applications as there are openings for the freshman lottery.
- We own and operate three airplanes from our Flight Training Center.
- Students can earn a private pilot license and/or an FAA Part 107 ("drone") license.
- The 200<sup>TH</sup> student will earn a private pilot license in 2026.
- Generous donors have funded six flight training scholarships.
- Our engineering program routinely offers 14-16 courses.
- Our VEX robotics teams compete and win at the world level.
- WMAA has been recognized several times as a top charter high school in Michigan.



Matthew Smith, Class of 2014

*"Fifteen years ago, this school was a test of an idea. Now it's a huge success and the secret is out."*

—Tim Brouwer, Mayday Avionics