

CSI Participates in Land of Enchantment Fly-In and “Girls in Aviation Day” Event

September 26, 2022

CSI Aviation Inc. participated in the 2022 Land of Enchantment Fly-In (LOEFI), hosted by EAA Chapter 179 at Double Eagle II Airport in Albuquerque, NM on Saturday, September 24th. CSI's largest medically configured aircraft — Beechcraft King Air 350 (N571AW) – was visited by aviation enthusiasts, pilots, and children alike for tours of the interior.



[CSI Aviation Inc.'s plane and booth with Chief Pilot Alex Katkov.]

LOEFI visitors lined up throughout the day to see the medically configured interior of the aircraft while CSI pilots took turns showing off the controls. From the start of the show until the very end, CSI pilots showed off the interior of the aircraft while CSI medics, nurses, and supporting crew answered any questions from people waiting in line.



[Left: CSI's medically configured aircraft & booth; Right: (from left to right) CSI's Director of Safety & Pilot Steve Preteska, Albuquerque Base Manager & Flight Medic Gabriella Bloise, Vice President of Medical Flight Services Julia Azua, Flight Paramedic Sarah Van Ornum.]

CSI also participated in Women in Aviation International's (WAI) "Girls in Aviation Day" (GIAD). CSI brought three of its female crewmembers: Vice President of Medical Flight Services Julia Azua, Commercial Pilot Rowen Phlieger, and Flight Paramedic Sarah Van Ornum. CSI's representatives spoke to the girls gathered for GIAD about their position and how they got to where they are in their careers today alongside representatives from other women in the aviation industry.



[Pictured Left to Right: Rowen Pflieger, Sarah Van Ornum, and Julia Azua speaking to the girls in GIAD next to event coordinator Jacquelyne Nichols.]

Afterwards, the girls were released to complete a scavenger hunt, which included visiting CSI's air ambulance for a quick plane tour and receiving a stamp with a goody bag. Once the participants received all their stamps, they met back at the GIAD hangar for a raffle drawing.



[[Left: Line outside 571 of Girls in Aviation Day participants; Right: Girls in Aviation participant receiving a CSI Aviation hat as a raffle prize.]

During the scavenger hunt Pflieger, who was also the EAA Ray Scholar in 2019, was also interviewed by LOEFI volunteers on her experiences as a pilot. Additionally, Director of Safety Steve Preteska was interviewed by KOAT staff on why he is and always wanted to be a pilot.



[Left: Commercial Pilot Rowen Pflieger speaking at Women in Aviation event before LOEFI interview; Right: Director of Safety Steve Preteska being interviewed by KOAT.]

Overall, the day proved hugely rewarding as CSI employees demonstrated their hard-won skills and knowledge all the while inspiring the next generation of aviation enthusiasts.



[CSI participants from left to right: Commercial Pilot Noah Berg; Chief Pilot Alex Katkov; Director of Safety & Pilot Steve Preteska; Marketing & Sales Manager Abigail Malakiman; Commercial Pilot Rowen Pflieger.]