



For Immediate Release

### **Local Pilot Receives Scholarship for Inverted Flight**

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK  
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Amber Phillips of Cocolalla, Idaho, will be using funds from the Vicki Cruse Memorial Scholarship, awarded by the Amelia Earhart Scholarship Fund of The Ninety-Nines, to further her skills in turn, stall, roll, spin and loop dynamics including aerobatic sequences that will include Hammerheads, Half Cuban Eights, Immelmans, and recoveries from unusual attitudes.

Currently employed at Quest Aircraft leading a team of 18 individuals building assemblies for the rugged, back-country Kodiak aircraft, 28-year-old Amber acquired her private pilot certificate in 2014 and her seaplane rating the following year. She is also an aircraft mechanic having received her Airframe rating in 2012. Amber joined The 99s in 2013 while still a student pilot.

In her words "Flying the seaplane has given me more awareness of slow flight. A fellow 99 and aerobatic show pilot told me in some sense of the phrase, "Anyone can fly fast, it's the slow flight skills that are key and it'll get you if you're not paying attention." She gave me a ride in her Extra 300 before a show and it has stuck with me since. "

Amber believes that every pilot should always stay focused and in the right direction, even when upside down. She will work toward her Instrument and Commercial ratings in the coming years. This training is greatly appreciated and Amber will continue to maintain a respect for flight while teaching others and children all aspects as well. She says 'I continue to learn more every day and am thankful for any opportunity given to me.'

Also believing that she needs to 'give back' to the community, Amber helped set up a 4H Aerospace program in North Idaho and is currently assisting with the local high school Aerospace program as well. She says 'I want to show children that they can be anything they want in the aviation industry. Some don't want to be pilots but others need to hear they CAN be pilots.'

**The Ninety-Nines, Inc. is the International Organization of Women Pilots**, a non-profit organization founded in 1929 by Amelia Earhart and 98 other women. Currently spanning the globe with some 5000 active members, its goals are to advance aviation through scholarships, education and mutual support while honoring the unique history of women in aviation. The organization owns and operates two museums; the Museum of Women Pilots at its Oklahoma City headquarters and the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum in Atchison, Kansas.

**The Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund** of The 99s, Inc. provides scholarships for female pilots both certificated and students. Begun in 1940, the fund has distributed over 800 scholarships and awards to date to members of The 99s.

**Vicki Cruse** was an American aerobatic pilot and member of The 99s, Inc., winning the U.S. national unlimited aerobatic title in 2007. She perished in 2009 when her borrowed aircraft crashed in Britain during a qualifying flight for the World Aerobatic Championships.

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