

LGB Business Partner Spotlight: FlightSafety

This month we'd like to introduce Todd Bitgood, Center Manager for FlightSafety's Long Beach Learning Center. Todd has worked for FlightSafety for nearly 20 years and started as an instructor at FlightSafety Tucson in the Learjet Program. He is a certificated Airline Transport Pilot with Gulfstream G-VI, Learjet LR-60, and LR-Jet type ratings; he is also a Gold Seal Certified Flight Instructor (CFI, CFII, and MEI) with over 6,000 hours as a pilot!



Todd Bitgood is the Center Manager for FlightSafety's Long Beach Learning Center.

Q: Can you tell us about your business?

A: FlightSafety International is the world's premier professional aviation training company and supplier of flight simulators, visual systems and displays to commercial, government and military organizations. FlightSafety International provides training for pilots, technicians and other aviation professionals from 167 countries and independent territories.

FlightSafety operates the world's largest fleet of advanced full-flight simulators at Learning Centers and training locations in the United States, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Hong Kong, India, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

Here at our Learning Center in Long Beach, which first opened in 1967, we train pilots and cabin safety attendants on a variety of aircraft including Gulfstream G650, G550, GV, and GIV, as well as Beechcraft King Air and Cessna Citation aircraft. Maintenance technician training is also conducted on most Gulfstream aircraft types.

Q: How has COVID-19 affected your business?

A: We had a temporary slowdown in late March and early April but have steadily been increasing ever since. However, we are training fewer international customers due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions.

Q: What do you like best about operating at LGB?

A: It's a great environment so close to the airport terminal and our fantastic Southern California weather! We're able to serve a large customer base here on the West Coast and are highly accessible through the three airports of LGB, LAX and SNA.

Q: Anything else you'd like to share with your fellow LGB business partners?

A: We very much enjoy the camaraderie and goodwill that we share with our LGB airport community businesses and organizations. Our employees and customers really like the "hometown atmosphere" here at LGB even though we are nestled in the enormous Los Angeles metro region of over 22 million people!