

at a seminar last fall, this time at Alexandria Field, I jumped at the chance. In this seminar, women in leadership positions from around the Northeast participated, making for a natural progression between past seminars and the leadership-oriented seminars Castner will produce. Diane Raymond, dean of the college of arts and sciences at Simmons College, took part in the seminar at Alexandria, and gained so much from the experience that four more seminars are planned at Simmons this year. "The program gave me the opportunity to take a different kind of risk and explore more fully how I react to risk, how I work with a partner, and how I might take these lessons back to the workplace to become a better leader," said Raymond.

#### Take this home

As pilots, there are several points we can take from Castner's experience. If you are in the position to introduce someone to flying, whether it be during a discovery flight or an informal first ride in your airplane, you should make the most of that opportunity for a good first impression. The more preparation you can give the person (your spouse, a friend, or a co-worker, for example) on the ground, and the more you encourage that person's questions, the better his or her experience will be. Time spent in the cockpit moving the controls, explaining the instruments, and talking the person through the outline of the flight will go a long way toward making that person feel comfortable.

If you can identify some way to give the person control over the experience—whether it's advancing the throttle or simply the explicit ability to end the flight at any time—you give him or her an important tool. Male or female, a person may assume that flying is too complex a task for him or her to participate in during the first flight, so you need to open the door.

And check your assumptions about who might make a great pilot—or a great student. No matter how you came to aviation, there are many reasons to fly beyond your own.

ACPA

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**i** If you are interested in Women Take Flight/Leaders Take Flight workshops, contact Linda Castner at [upupaway@ptd.net](mailto:upupaway@ptd.net).

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