



CBAA Announces Winners of its 2018 Schedulers & Dispatchers Scholarship

June 13, 2018 The Canadian Business Aviation Association (CBAAA) is pleased to announce that Nelson Billings, flight coordinator at Skyservice Business Aviation and Jonathan Atkinson, licensed aircraft dispatcher at Skyplan Dispatch Ltd., are the recipients of the 2018 CBAAA Schedulers and Dispatchers Scholarship.



Both Nelson and Jonathan were recognized at the CBAAA 2018 Awards Luncheon for their achievement.

“We are honoured to be supporting two such outstanding individuals said Rudy Toering, interim president and CEO of the CBAAA. “CBAAA is proud to help these two very worthwhile candidates advance their education and training. Canadian business aviation will be stronger for it.”

In his application, Nelson noted that he started his career in business aviation with Chartright following a three-year aviation management course at Georgian College. Although Georgian focused on commercial aviation, Nelson told us he “instantly fell in love with the general aviation community” during his time at

Chartright.

Both Chartright and Skyservice gave Nelson glowing recommendations. Graham Nicholls, Nelson’s immediate superior and operations manager at Chartright, talked about Nelson’s enthusiasm and strong career goals: “While at Chartright, Nelson expressed a continuous desire to learn, and to expand his capabilities. I was direct witness to Nelson’s enthusiasm for aviation, and his strong desire to build a career within the industry.”

His current employer, Laura Keenan, manager, flight services at Skyservice Business Aviation, agrees. “Nelson has been a wonderful addition to our flight coordination team” she said. “He has proven himself to be a great team player by building relationships with his peers, flight crews and client contacts”.

Jonathan Atkinson’s path to business aviation was very different. With a background in the Canadian Forces, Jonathan started in aviation as a ramp agent at Sunwest Aviation, working on his own to achieve his Transport Canada aircraft dispatching licences before securing his position at Skyplan Dispatch. His determination got noticed. “We found two other candidates that simply had vastly more experience” said Skyplan’s manager of flight dispatch training and standards, Martin Brennan. “However I simply couldn’t get Johnny out of my head. I wanted to reward that enthusiasm and give him an opportunity. Martin’s colleague, Karel Blaskovic, Skyplan’s manager of flight dispatch concurred. Stating that as dispatch and planning are becoming more complex, aviation needs more people like Jonathan. “People like Johnny are





be encouraged while being steered in the right direction.” He said, while praising Jonathan’s drive, motivation, ambition and enthusiasm.

Nelson and Jonathan will receive their scholarships at a special presentation on June 13th during CBAA 2018, business aviation’s annual convention and exhibit, in Waterloo ON.

Launched in 2017, the Schedulers and Dispatchers scholarship is administered by the CBAA through a special committee chaired by Dolores Johnson, Director of Sales at Million Air.

CBAA, the national voice for Canada’s \$12.1business aviation sector, sincerely thanks the sponsors of this important and prestigious award: Air Service Hawaii, AirSprint, Flight Safety International, Jet Aviation, Million Air, the National Business Aviation Association, SheltAir Aviation Services, Signature Flight Support, Skyplan and WorldFuel.

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