



**DANA DONATI**  
**CEO**  
**Breaking Down Barriers**

As CEO of Breaking Down Barriers, Dana leads the nonprofit's growth initiatives and actively promotes aviation outreach and awareness within the Dallas communities. She ensures that scholarship recipients receive mentoring and support, guiding them toward success in flight training and preparing them for a career as a pilot.

With more than two decades of aviation experience, Dana has overseen operations at two airline owned flight schools: United Aviate Academy and LIFT Academy. Before starting LIFT Academy, Dana served as Dean of Aviation at the Community College of Beaver County.

In her earlier career, Dana held various flight operations roles at Republic Airways, including Assistant Chief Pilot, First Officer, and Captain with type ratings on the Dash 8 Q400 and the Embraer 170/175 190/195.

Dana holds an MBA in Aviation and Leadership from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, a Bachelor of Science in Aviation Management from Robert Morris University, and an Associate degree in Professional Pilot from the Community College of Beaver County.

Appointed by former Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao, Dana served on the FAA Women In Aviation Advisory Board. During her tenure, she chaired the Training and Recruiting Subcommittee, contributing to the report 'Breaking Barriers for Women in Aviation: Flight Plan For The Future,' submitted to the Secretary of Transportation, the FAA Administrator, and Congress.

Additionally, Dana contributes to the Community College of Beaver County as a member of the CCBC Foundation Board.