

Amanda Ferraro Bio

Amanda Ferraro is an internationally renowned and results-driven aviation leader with over 24 years of experience in the aviation industry. As the owner and Chief Executive Officer of Aviation Safety Solutions, LLC, based in Janesville, Wisconsin, Ferraro has built a reputation for delivering world-class expertise in safety management system (SMS) integration, and industry best practices and standards. Her company, an International Standard for Business Aircraft Operations (IS-BAO) preferred provider, serves airlines, Fortune 500 companies, Part 91, 135, 139, 145, 141, and 142 organizations worldwide, with Ferraro personally leading safety initiatives and audits for nearly 140 operators globally.

Ferraro's journey in aviation began with her academic foundation at Minnesota State University, Mankato, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Professional Piloting. Her education provided a strong technical grounding in aviation and set the stage for her exceptional career in flight operations, safety, and leadership.

Building on her educational foundation, Ferraro's career spans roles at Cessna Aircraft Company, John Deere Global Aviation Services, American Family Insurance, and FedEx mainline. Her piloting experience includes serving as Airbus 300/310 first officer, international captain on Gulfstream 550, 450, GV, and senior captain on the Citation X and Citation 680. In these roles, she also served as an avionics instructor pilot, delivery pilot, flight operations captain, and training officer, amassing significant domestic and international corporate flight experience.

Since founding Aviation Safety Solutions, Ferraro has become a trusted authority in aviation safety. Ferraro leads the Progressive Stage 3 IS-BAO auditor core for International Business Aviation Council (IBAC), the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) Safety Committee SMS working group and has helped oversee standardization and training programs for auditors worldwide. Her expertise encompasses International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) compliant safety management systems, autonomous technologies in transportation, UAS and unmanned systems, incident response, international operations, occupational health and environmental standards, aircraft maintenance programs, leadership development, and industry best practices.

Ferraro is the visionary behind several industry-leading initiatives, including the Aviation Safety Assistance Program, the Business Aviation Benchmark Partnership data share program, the FAA SMS Workshop for Safety Managers and the IS-BAO Standardization Protocol course. She also spearheaded the development of the FlightPlan Stage 1 (FS1) program for IBAC and an innovative drone/UAV safety program. In 2020, Ferraro was appointed to lead the NBAA SMS working group on the Safety Committee, helping lead the charge for the new updated FAA Part 5 regulations for aircraft manufacturers, air tour operators and Part 135 charter organizations. Her contributions to safety management have transformed how operators view safety, especially among small flight operators.

Ferraro's passion for aviation safety stems from a deeply personal experience. As a teenager, she endured a 30-foot fall that nearly took her life. She later recognized her accident as preventable, inspiring her to pursue a career dedicated to safety. Her introduction to aviation began at age 12 when a neighbor, a commercial airline pilot, took her flying and encouraged her involvement in the Civil Air Patrol, where she rose to become a Cadet Commander.

A recognized leader in aviation safety, Ferraro has received numerous accolades, including the inaugural Tony Kern Professionalism in Aviation Award in 2016 and the NBAA 40 Under 40 Award in 2021. She is also a Certified Aviation Manager (CAM), a lead IS-BAO auditor, an international Gulfstream G550/G450 captain, and a teacher for auditors and implementers worldwide.

Through her work, Ferraro has established herself as an industry thought leader and passionate educator. Her teachings on SMS guide operators in transforming their organizations for the future by building safety systems that are not only robust but also predictive, driving innovation and enhancing safety for the next generation of aviation. She considers her work a calling and remains dedicated to improving the safety culture within aviation.