

ETHEL ALVENA SYMONETTE-JOHNSON, PH.D.

Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33319 | 305-338-2151 | captvena@yahoo.com

Business Planning Process Improvement Operations Human Capital Operations Relationship Builder Planner FAA Regulations Excellent Communicator	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Seasoned Real Estate Investor and former Florida Memorial University Chair, adept in business planning and operations. I excel in building relationships and driving process improvements. Leveraging a unique blend of academic excellence and market acumen, I have significantly enriched university-industry partnerships and portfolio diversification. Reliable worker with excellent communication, time management, and computer skills. A driven and detailed oriented individual with a desire to use analytical and problem-solving skills to meet goals.▪ Doctoral educated, educator and aviation professional with expertise in flight, ground and safety operations, certificated pilot performing flight instruction, and regulatory program management; develop accredited instructional curricula, plan and manage successful business operations.▪ Demonstrated success conducting analyses, participating in research studies, preparing and presenting findings and recommendations, and improving programs through professional insights.▪ 25+ years of flight experience as pilot and instructor; commercial pilot with instrument and multi-engine ratings; certified flight instructor, hold 7 FAA certificates.▪ Skilled administrator and business planner; launched two businesses from ground up and contributed to administration and operations of several professional aviation organizations.▪ Effective public speaker and published author; frequent keynote speaker on diverse topics including human factors in aircraft design and development of female professionals.
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE & ACHIEVEMENTS

DEAN, SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND AERONAUTICAL SCIENCE

Florida Memorial University, Miami, FL

Aug 2025 to Present

Overview: The merger of the School of Business with the Department of Aviation and Safety represents an important academic realignment designed to strengthen Florida Memorial University's curricular offerings and expand industry engagement across multiple sectors. By aligning the strengths of both units, the university is strategically positioned to pursue funding and partnerships in aviation management, business analytics, supply chain innovation, safety and regulatory compliance, entrepreneurship, and the economic impact of aviation on local and global markets. Additionally, this realignment advances the University's goal of addressing critical workforce shortages in both aviation and business fields. By combining resources, expertise, and industry partnerships, the merged unit will enhance delivery of high-quality undergraduate and graduate programs, expand internship and practicum opportunities, and create a more robust pipeline for professional development and career readiness.

REAL ESTATE INVESTOR, REALTOR

GP Open Doors, Inc

Aug 2021 to Present

Overview: Oversee the daily operation of Real Estate Investments. Serve the underserved in the 21st century housing market, while building and leveraging a diversified real estate portfolio. Negotiate contracts with vendors. Create win-win situations for all clientele.

INTERIM CHAIR, DEPT. OF AVIATION AND SAFETY

Florida Memorial University, Miami, FL

Aug 2018 to July 2020

Overview: Enhanced the day-to-day operation of the Aviation and Safety department, including developing strategies to achieve the university 2025 vision, manage budgets, instructional staffing and accreditation. Engage, inspire, and motivate students while maintaining academic excellence. Demonstrate an awareness of and sensitivity to the educational goals of a multicultural population. Oversee Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Part 141 Flight

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Training School, ensure development of a quality flight and applied sciences curriculum including aircraft structures, aerodynamics, engine systems, air traffic management, aircraft design and flight simulation. Liaise with aviation industry, government and learning institutions to enhance the stature and brand of the University.

- Serve as the university contact for all aviation related industry partners including career fairs.
- Focal for United States Airforce (JROTC) Summer Flight Program qualifying 12 each cadet's as FAA Private Pilots one year, and 16 the following year.
- Participate in department and university committees and other services. Address the needs of a diverse student population through course materials, teaching strategies and advisement.
- Spearhead annual Black Pioneers in Aviation Day creating a collegial environment for middle and high school students.
- Manage contractual services for aircraft operations and maintenance.

PROFESSOR, AERONAUTICAL SCIENCE

Aug 2016 to June 2022

Florida Memorial University, Miami, FL

Overview: Develop and apply specialized knowledge in aerospace and aviation as undergraduate professor instructing students at various phases in aviation management and pilot training. Design and write courseware from scratch based on original concepts and ideas engendered by prior professional experience and personal studies. Consistently brought new industry to the university including, American Airlines, Solaris Air, Spirit Airlines.

FLIGHT SERVICE SPECIALIST I

Aug 2015 to May 2016

Lockheed Martin, Ashburn, VA

Overview: Flight data, pre-flight and in-flight specialist. Provide weather briefing for departure ensuring safe flight, routing and arrivals. Opened and closed flight plans. Ensure Notices to Airmen (NOTAMS) were properly prepared and disseminated; met (FAA) requirements acting as a liaison between pilots and facility air traffic controllers to relay and obtain clearances for instrument flight pilots. Perform search and rescue for lost aircraft.

Select achievements:

- Successfully completed four written FAA exams; weather, satellite, radar, in-flight, and a practical exam to obtain FAA Pilot Weather Briefer Certificate.

CERTIFIED FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR

Aug 2013 to Aug 2014

AV-ED Flight School, Leesburg, VA

Overview: Flight instructor, ground instructor, and operations manager, working in client-facing and back-office roles to ensure customer satisfaction and efficient business operations. Instruct theory of flight, and practical aspects of flying aircraft. Ensure coursework prepared and organized; met Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirements to ensure compliance with Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR). Manage administrative and business functions; develop programs.

Select achievements:

- Effectively establish and maintain working relationships with clients, government agencies, internal and external contacts; explain highly complex technical information to audiences of all levels of understanding.
- Devised "Learn to Fly" seminars attracting new students; personally, signed many new flight students as a result of new offering; taught private pilot ground classes.
- Ferried various aircraft on separate occasions for maintenance—the C172R, Piper Archer, and Piper Seminole.

PROFESSOR AND RESEARCHER, AERONAUTICAL SCIENCE

Jan 2009 to May 2013

Florida Memorial University, Miami, FL

Overview: Developed and applied specialized knowledge in aerospace and aviation as undergraduate professor instructing students at various phases of pilot's training. Designed and wrote coursework based on original concepts and ideas engendered by prior professional experience and personal studies. Trusted advisor to Department Chair, assist with research to raise the profile of the university. Collaborated with academicians and presented information in an engaging and interesting way.

Select achievements:

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- Developed and delivered a full roster of courses that included Aviation History, Aerodynamics, Aviation Safety, Introduction to Air Traffic Control, Crew Resource Management, Aircraft Engines, Navigation and Performance, and Multi-Engine Systems. Instructional skill and technical expertise have been recognized with challenging and rewarding instructional and research assignments.
- Key contributor in deploying US Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 14/Part 141: a structured pilot training method based on FAA syllabus and other standards
- Presented “Human Factors in Aircraft Design” at the Canadian Aeronautics Space Institute (CASI) 58th Annual Conference; paper was published in CASI September 2011 magazine.
- Partnered with Department Chair in research, validation, and implementation of “Smart Classroom” including electronic exam databases, synthetic training devices, curricula, and adult teaching methodologies.
- Assisted the university in its first aircraft purchase—a \$400,000 C172 with glass cockpit.
- Championed Vision 2020 effort to enhance the university’s stature in academia.
- Recorded first-ever online training lessons—Aerodynamics Lessons for Online Instruction

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Greater Miami Aviation Association (GMAA) Member of Board of Directors
- Organization Black Aerospace Professionals (OBAP)
 - President’s Award (2019 Recipient)
- Miami Chapter Tuskegee Airman
- Women in Aviation (WAI)
- Aircraft Owners Pilot Association (AOPA)
- South Florida Aviation Fly-In and Educational Expo (SAFE)
- Real Estate Sale Agent (FL)

EDUCATION

DOCTOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (PHD): *Atlantic International University, Honolulu, HI*

MASTER IN AERONAUTICAL SCIENCE: Aerospace & Aeronautical Science in Operations - *Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, FL*

MASTER IN AERONAUTICAL SCIENCE: Aerospace & Aeronautical Science in Safety Management Systems - *Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, FL*

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BS) in Aeronautical Science: *Florida Memorial College, Miami Gardens, FL*

CERTIFICATIONS

Commercial Pilot License ▪ Private Pilot License ▪ Instrument Rating ▪ Multi-Engine Rating ▪ Flight Instructor License ▪ Advanced Ground Instructor License ▪ Instrument Ground Instructor License
Real Estate Sales Agent License

PUBLICATIONS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

“Human Factors in Aircraft Design,” Canadian Aeronautics Space Institute (CASI) Annual Conference, 2011

“Human Factors in Aircraft Design,” CASI Magazine, September 2011

Keynote Speaker, Black Female Development Circle, Inc. Annual Conference, 2013

Keynote Speaker, Civil Air Patrol, 2013

Keynote Speaker, Aviation Institute of Manassas Graduate Ceremony, 2014

Guest Speaker, Miami Northwestern Senior High School, 2018

Guest Speaker, Silver Lakes Middle School, 2021

Greater Miami Aviation Association Panelist, Executive Women in Aviation, 2020

Panelist, Miami International Airport, Black History Month 2020

Keynote Speaker, National Black Ciliation of Federal Aviation Employees, 2022

Panelist, Broward County College School of Aviation March 2023