

THE KEY IS; TRY, TRY AND TRY HARDER!

Ozge ERDOGAN (WAI member no: 39262)

That is what I do in every field of my life as I know that my dream can come true if I really want it! Let's me tell you my story.

I was born in the northern region of Turkey. During my education, I was always known with assiduity in my duties. I am now in my final year as student in the Meteorology Engineering Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics Faculty at the Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, TURKEY. All my adventure related with aviation and Women in Aviation, International started with my internship at the Dispatcher Office of Turkish Airlines in Ataturk International Airport, Istanbul in the summer of 2007.

My major at university was based on research of the atmospheric conditions. Forecasting the changing weather is my profession. In aeronautics meteorology we use TAFs and METARs to convey all information about weather in aviation. In addition, weather is the essential need of a dispatcher. Depending on the relation between my profession and dispatching, I decided to search the details.

When I presented the documents of my research on the FAA approved dispatcher license to the dispatchers in THY, I was directed to Sevda Tantan, WAI member and previous scholarship winner. Sevda told me that to become an FAA approved dispatcher is possible and this has become my next goal.

I first heard about WAI while I was doing my internship as a dispatcher at Turkish Airlines (THY). I was confident that WAI was the right address to make my dreams come true. Moreover, if I could have the chance to attend the conference, I was sure that I would be engrossed in the tactics and strategies necessary for a successful aviation career, a good beginning for my dispatcher career. After an anxious suspense period, the e-mail was in my inbox; " OZGE HAS BEEN AWARDED THE STUDENT CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP + BANQUET TICKET !!!!! ". That was the first step to start the adventure and I won it :)

Now, a second exciting period has started! Just after this great news, I informed Turkish Airlines about my conference scholarship, and being successful both in university and in my internship, they sponsored my airfare to San Diego. That was the second step of the adventure and I won it ,too :)

After obtaining the US visa and tickets to San Diego and with all my savings, that I had put aside with part-time work experience and savings from my education scholarship, I finally reached the hotel to rest and be ready for the conference! I had a great roommate, Carolyn Quebec, also a member of WAI. During the conference I attended many education sessions, meetings and I knew that this conference was the place to be! I have contacted many important people in aviation who were just a dream to talk to!

This has certainly been a great adventure! But my story does not end here!

Now the third part of my adventure starts! Before coming to San Diego, I sent many e-mails underlining my interest in aviation and Mark Sterns was one of the recipients. On receiving my e-mail, he invited me to join the Southwest Airlines session. On the last day of the conference, during the Southwest Airlines Session, I met Mark Sterns in person, the director of Higher Power Aviation, Texas, USA and found out I had won the **FAA approved flight dispatcher course full tuition scholarship!**

That was news I really wanted to hear and that was the dream, which was what encouraged me to start this adventure!

I am really very proud of being a member of Women in Aviation, International. They not only helped my dreams come true, but also provided many opportunities like meeting aviation enthusiasts, having international experience, encouraging myself, etc!

**As an international member, I suggest all aviation enthusiasts to become a member of WAI and take advantage of the many opportunities available.** It was the greatest place to be and I am grateful to all those who helped me enter this great world, especially Sevda TANTAN, most helpful, kind and full of encouragement!

Now, I can be a licensed FAA approved flight dispatcher and I promise to be as successful in aviation as I have been during my education! **Keep in mind; the key to success is; trying, trying and trying harder again!**

