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## **The Teacher Who Became a Filmmaker**

STEM/Aviation Gender Gap Focus of Documentary Directed by Lakeland Resident

LAKELAND - Women make up half of the college educated workforce, yet they are significantly underrepresented in STEM/aviation fields. More specifically, American women make up approximately six percent of the pilot population. *Fly Like a Girl*, currently in production, reveals the contributions women have made to aviation/ STEM and brings to light the many women who are doing extraordinary work in aviation and STEM today. *Fly Like a Girl* examines why many young girls don't see themselves in an aviation / STEM related field and how society can begin to change this perception.

Katie McEntire Wiatt makes her directorial debut with *Fly Like a Girl*. Wiatt is a producer at Lakeland film company, Indie Atlantic Films. Before joining Indie Atlantic Films, Wiatt was an elementary educator. It was during her time as a primary school teacher that she first developed the idea for *Fly Like a Girl*. Wiatt remembers first hand the gap in confidence young female students felt in the classroom, especially in relation to STEM subjects.

"I remember one student in particular, she was struggling with a math problem. She said, 'Ms. Wiatt, girls just aren't good at math.' This student's statement had a profound effect on me. Perhaps because it reminded me of a math teacher I had in 5th grade that told me 'some girls, like you, just can't do math.' I couldn't shake the feeling that this was a very common experience for many young girls."

-Katie McEntire Wiatt

*Fly Like a Girl* is in the early days of production but has already interviewed three-time U.S. National Aerobatic Champion Patty Wagstaff, World War II WASP Bee Haydu, and has support from women in aviation and STEM across the United States.

"The outpouring of support from the Aviation community has been amazing. It seems everyone we reach out to wants to be involved in helping to tell the story."

- Katie McEntire Wiatt

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