



PHILIP CARROLL

AIRLINE PILOT FOR JETBLUE AIRWAYS

I THINK YOU ONLY WORK HARD FOR SOMETHING THAT YOU ABSOLUTELY WANT. PURSUING A DREAM IS THE REASON WHY WE'RE HERE — STRIVE FOR SOMETHING AND GO AFTER IT."

Philip is a pilot for JetBlue Airways and loves the adventure of not knowing what every day holds. He found his passion for flying later in life, but hasn't turned back since.

WHAT IS YOUR UNIQUE GENIUS?

"My unique genius is my level headedness, the ability to stay calm under pressure and only focusing on what I can control in the moment."

HOW DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN THIS CAREER?

"Becoming a pilot was never on the forefront of my mind as a kid. I went to college as pre-med and thought that surgery was in my future. Then I took a self-reflection day to figure out, 'what's something [I'm] actually going to be excited about?'"

I wrote down a list of things that [I] wanted to be when [I] grew up. Doctor was probably number two on the list behind secret agent, then somewhere down the list was pilot. The thought process of [becoming a pilot] made me smile. I [started] with a discovery flight and [I had an] epiphany of, 'I think I'm really going to enjoy this.' I knew that this is where I was going to be."

IN WHAT WAYS IS YOUR CAREER A PERFECT FIT FOR YOU?

"I love traveling. I love being challenged every single day. I like not having the mundane every day experience. Something different is going to happen. I think that's what keeps me excited about coming to work every single day and makes it a perfect fit for me."

WHAT DOES A DAY IN THE LIFE LOOK LIKE?

"The way [every day] varies is what excites me. On a day to day basis, we have a schedule to fly, so [I] have an idea of where [I] should be ending up. But adaptability is the name of the game when we have a weather event or a mechanical event that might alter your schedule outside of your control."

Typically, I wake up a couple of hours before a flight and check the weather. I check my destination so that I can appropriately pack a bag. If I'm going to a cold weather destination, I might still have to pack shorts and some swim trunks or vice versa because we never really know where we're going to end up. Once we get to the airport, we become very businesslike. Making sure that we're on time and pushing back [is] the main component of what we're doing on a day to day basis."

"I can be working the same exact trip three days in a row, but every single one of those days will be a new challenge."

WHAT SKILLS DOES IT TAKE TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN YOUR JOB?

"The skill set you need to be a pilot is actually twofold. We're very heavy on technical skills [like] ability to learn complicated systems, dynamic environments like airspace and speed limits in the sky. But then there's also a big component that's soft skills and being personable. I'm going to be sitting next to another pilot for hours at a time, potentially days at a time. You want to be a cool person that you want to go fly with."

WHAT DO YOU WISH YOU KNEW WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER?

"I wish [I knew] it's okay to ask for help. Becoming a pilot is not one of those things that you can do by yourself. It takes a large network of people and a lot of favors. Don't be stubborn."

"Always ask for help and you'll be surprised how many people are willing to lend a hand and help you out."

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF ON YOUR JOURNEY?

"We took off out in New York and the weather wasn't in our favor. [Our company] said to bring the airplane back towards New York to fill up and take another short flight out to [the destination]. Unfortunately, the weather started deteriorating [more]. We left New York and 7 hours later, we brought the passengers right back to the same gate."

[I'm] used to not necessarily getting to where I'm going, but that's not the expectation for passengers. But majority of the [passengers] thanked us for keeping [them] safe. That's [a good] moment when you get a 'thank you,' even if it feels like a thankless job."

WHAT IS THE COOLEST PART OF YOUR JOB? WHAT IS THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF YOUR JOB?

"The coolest part of the job is seeing some of the things you can see, like a sunset over the Florida coast and a sunrise over Los Angeles. That and layovers are always awesome. If you find yourself on a beach somewhere hanging out until the next flight, it's cool."

[The most challenging part is] sacrificing for the community at large. When you go on vacation, [pilots] go to work in order to make that happen. I'm adjusting my schedule personally to move a holiday to a different day in order to make that sort of thing happen."

WHAT IS THE ONE THING THAT PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR FIELD/JOB?

"[What people don't know is] it's not all glamorous. In order to get a plane from point A to point B with all of our passengers on board, there's a lot of moving parts. [We rely on] so many other people doing their jobs correctly on a day to day basis as well."

WHAT WAS A DEFINING MOMENT IN YOUR LIFE?

"A defining moment in life is going to be the same for a lot of pilots — after your first Discovery flight. Your next goal is to learn how to fly the plane by yourself. It can be nerve wracking, can be exciting, can be scary. But it's definitely a defining moment because we all go through it and we're all so happy once we get past that first initial solo because there's nothing like that first takeoff and first landing and just knowing that you can do it."