

My name is Elideth Hernandez, and I am an immigrant from Colombia, truly living the American Dream by working for Flight Operations and taking part in the FAA. Since I was a young girl, I was always interested in airplanes and wanted to be a pilot. Once I came to the United States, I was privileged to attend Aviation High School and Vaughn College in Queen, NY, where I graduated with a BS of Science in Avionics. From there, I was able to get hired by the FAA at a very young age in 2008. I was blessed to meet various people to assist me and guide my aviation journey. I started as a Navigation and Communications Airway Transportation System Specialist at LGA Airport. Move temporarily to San Diego, California, to experience the west coast as an Airway Transportation System Specialist. In 2013 I decided to return to my hometown of New York City and quickly obtained my promotion as a Navigational/Communications SSC Coordinator at JFK International Airport. I was very excited to work in one of the busiest airports in the world.

While working at LGA, I was on a ground team and conducted my first Flight Check for the Runway 22 ILS. When I saw N77 perform a low approach for the first time, I looked at my co-worker and asked him, "Is that an FAA plane, and how do I get that job?" Since then, my goal has been to join the Flight Program. In 2017 I achieved my goal and was hired as a Mission Specialist in Oklahoma City Flight Program Office. I moved to OKC for about two years for my mission training, and in 2019 I transferred to the Atlantic City Flight Program office. Due to personal issues, I had to leave the Flight Operation in 2022. I was hired to the New York TRACON, where I was a NAS Area Specialist and oversaw the New York District, including Philadelphia and surrounding Pennsylvania airports. However, I realized that flying and being part of a crew was my passion. I decided to return to the Flight Program Operation and continue my path as a Mission Specialist. Flight Program Operations has opened the door to so many opportunities. As a crew member, I have had the privilege to work with great teams and travel throughout the United States and internationally.

It was difficult, and I had to work hard to overcome many obstacles. This was about 15 years ago, and I am so proud to be part of this organization. I am fortunate to have such vast experience in the FAA, going to the East Coast, Central, and West Coasts. I apply all my experience in every job I do for the agency. I have always believed that when you set your mind and put your efforts into what you want, you can accomplish anything. I hope to inspire more women, specifically Hispanic women, to get involved in aviation.