Lorena de Rodriguez
President/CEO – SSi, Inc. (Safety & Security Instruction)

Degree: M.S. – Aviation/Aerospace Management
Alma Matter: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Years worked in the industry: 40

• How did you end up in the aviation industry?
  A bit by design, I’ve always wanted to travel since working at a travel agency after college. I’ve worked on the ramp loading baggage, handled the customer service side of runway overrun incident, and managed operations for a foreign airline. Then, found my true passion – educating and training new people to this industry I love.

• What do you currently do in the industry?
  I lead a very diverse and talented team on curriculum design, technology and multimedia experts that understand how security and safety procedures along with regulations from TSA, FAA, OSHA, ICAO, and DOT need to be applied and practiced. It is essential that all workers understand the skills necessary to perform their jobs safely. We create training programs which engage learners to think and apply concepts.

• What advice would you give to a college student considering a career in the airport industry?
  I learned while teaching at ERAU and KSU that students come to this industry with a perspective and expectation that typically gets changed along the way. My advice is taking jobs outside your immediate interest that provide a different viewpoint. Search for learning opportunities and meet as many old and young people in the industry as possible. Network: be open to connecting with folks you haven’t met yet.