



Welcome to AeroStar News!

FAA's Youth Task Force Meets AeroStar's Talent Pipeline



Dear AeroStar Family and Friends,

In this issue of AeroStar News, we are reporting on the important work of the Youth Access to American Jobs in Aviation Task Force. Chartered in August 2020 by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the purpose of the Task Force is "to provide strategies and recommendations encouraging youth to pursue a career in the field of aviation and to promote organizations and programs that provide education, training, mentorship, outreach, and recruitment of youth in the aviation industry."

I was appointed by the US Secretary of Transportation to the Task Force last year, and assigned to the Funding Subcommittee. The Subcommittee's charge is to "Identify potential sources of government and private sector funding, including grants and scholarships, that may be used to carry out the recommendations and strategies to support youth in pursuing careers in aviation."

AeroStar Is on the Right Vector

In my work with the Task Force, I've received confirmation time and again that AeroStar's talent pipeline is seen as a successful national model for helping youth gain access to the aviation workforce. We have impacted more than 10,000 students with AeroSTEM training programs, awareness events, mentoring, coaching, and access to employment opportunities since 2008. Our courses are free or low cost to students. We are a one-stop shop for Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana when it comes to experiential learning opportunities, virtual learning, resume coaching, and access to scholarships. We do it all for our students!

The importance of our national pipeline connections with employers cannot be overstated. AeroStar is the glue connecting K-12 youth to the industry because we know where to send them—to college programs, internships, apprenticeships, pilot pathways, the military, or positions in airport operations. Our success comes from both working with kids every day and engaging our organic industry partnership network.

Navigating Post-COVID

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and ongoing urgent labor needs, the industry finds itself in a whirlwind of change. Furthermore, the push to rebuild this country's aviation infrastructure, including access roads, airport facilities, and next generation aircraft, is creating an economy-shaking revitalization of the middle class and underserved communities.

At AeroStar, our objective is to make sure that our students are fully trained and prepared to take their rightful place as aviation professionals. As a member of the Task Force, I am honored to be in the right place at the right time to ensure that our diverse candidate pool, training partners, and community collaborators have first class ticket access when it comes to scholarships, grants, and all the financial benefits this near-trillion dollar industry has to offer. Your support has contributed greatly to our ability to do this!

Giving Wings to Dreams!

Tammera L. Holmes

President & CEO, AeroStar Consulting Corporation

Founder & CEO, AeroStar Avion Institute NFP

#wingstodreams

The State of Youth Access to Jobs in Aviation: *An AeroStar News Report*



The FAA's Youth Access to American Jobs in Aviation Task Force held its second public meeting on March 31, 2021. The Task Force brings together a wealth of knowledge and experience across the aviation industry. Members represent training organizations, K-12 schools, colleges and universities, airlines, trade organizations, pilots, engineers, and aircraft maintenance and service companies.

Click [here](#) to view the morning session featuring Subcommittee reports.

Click [here](#) to view the afternoon session featuring guest speakers from Black Girls Drone and the Civil Air Patrol.

"We need to reach young people early, and we need to reach them where they are."

– A. Bradley Mims, FAA Deputy Administrator



A. Bradley Mims
Deputy Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration

"We're seeing rapid advances in drones, rockets, urban air mobility, and supersonic transport. We're looking for a new generation of pilots, engineers, dispatchers, and air traffic controllers. We also need maintenance technicians, mechanics, and drone operators. And we need cyber security specialists, data analysts program managers, communication specialists, and other professionals who play an essential role in our industry. The FAA wants to attract the best and brightest and most diverse group of people to be part of the aviation and aerospace industry. We need to reach kids in an inclusive and equitable way. Whether you grew up in the city, the suburbs, or on a farm, we want you to consider a career in these fields. We want to attract more minorities, people from underserved communities and people with disabilities. We need to reach young people early and we need to reach them where they are. Let's identify pathways to success, exposure and awareness, scholarships, internships, coaching, mentoring, networking, and so forth. Let's identify and remedy any barriers that stand in the way of a career in aviation and aerospace."

Excerpted from speech given at FAA's Youth Task Force public meeting (March 31, 2021).

Subcommittees Reveal Challenges, Opportunities to Improve Youth Access to Aviation Careers

The FAA's Youth Task Force comprises four working Subcommittees: Trends, Awareness Building, Expanded Pathways, and Funding. During the March 31st public meeting, Subcommittee members discussed their issues, findings, and recommendations. Following are report highlights:

Trends: The Subcommittee was charged with identifying industry trends that encourage or discourage youth from pursuing careers in aviation. Post-secondary students pursuing aviation careers were surveyed. The middle school and high school years were revealed as formative regarding the development of career interests and would benefit from hands-on learning and career guidance. Early outreach efforts with students and parents should begin in kindergarten ("the earlier the better").

Expanded Pathways: The Subcommittee also studied how youth are encouraged or discouraged from pursuing aviation careers. Focusing on high schools programs, the Subcommittee recommended that cost barriers to training must be removed; nationally-

approved curricula with industry credentials should be taught in high schools; and special training and motivation programs should target high school teachers.

Awareness Building: The Subcommittee studied how the FAA and the industry at large can improve coordination efforts to support youth. While industry stakeholders are involved in awareness activities, their funding mechanisms, outreach, and work experience opportunities are not shared effectively. The Subcommittee uncovered a lack of partnerships and connections among organizations. Communication and connections must be strengthened across the industry.

Funding: The Subcommittee was charged with identifying potential sources of government and private sector funding, including grants and scholarships, that may be used to carry out the recommendations and strategies to support youth in pursuing careers in aviation. The Subcommittee recommended the development of an incentive-based approach to funding that aligns with legislative modifications and trends. Also, an Aerospace Education Program List will track programs' impact on diversifying the workforce and addressing labor shortages. The List will also follow students' workforce performance.

Consensus Recommendation

Task Force members agreed that better communication and connections are needed to bring industry stakeholders, from students to employers, together. An online portal was proposed to provide a "one-stop shop" of news, information, events, and opportunities. Ideally, the portal would reside on the FAA's website. Stay tuned to AeroStar News for further developments!

Virtual Field Trip for High School Upper-Level Students

AeroStar
AVION INSTITUTE

FREE

AEROSTAR AVION INSTITUTE
PRESENTS

**THE LIFE AFTER:
COLLEGE
EDITION**

**May 7, 2021
10 AM to 12 PM**

An event for high school
Juniors and Seniors to see the
connection between
education and their future.

Colleges and Universities
include:

CHICAGO STATE
UNIVERSITY

CITY COLLEGES
of CHICAGO
Sustaining Your World

ILLINOIS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

zoom

REGISTER TODAY
<https://bitly/AAICollegeTakeoff>

Click [HERE](#) for details and to register!

Register Now for Online Programs at the AeroVerse E-Learning Academy (click [here](#) for details)

Coming This Summer: Introduction to Aerospace Engineering



This 5-week summer course covers design, propulsion, and systems of aircraft, rotorcraft, and spacecraft. We'll be opening registration soon. Stay tuned!

Specialty Courses REGISTER TO JOIN WAITLISTS ***Prices May Vary*** (click [here](#) for details)

Are you serious about pursuing an aviation career? Take your training to the next level with our Specialty Courses Program. You'll be on track to pursue the career of your dreams! Click [HERE](#) to register today!

1. Intro to Drone
2. Intro to Aerospace Engineering
3. Intro to Helicopters
4. Drone Licensing
5. Intro to Rocketry
6. Private Pilot Ground School



**Get Ready for Our K-12 Summer
2021 Programs!**
Registration opens in May.
Click below to join a waitlist.

AeroSparks K-4: [waitlist](#)

Grades 5-8: [waitlist](#)

Grades 9-12: [waitlist](#)

Courses with free enrollment during the pre-sale have all been reserved,

but students can still enroll for \$25 for a limited time with the \$100 off coupon. Coupon code is summersale.

Scholarships Available!

It's scholarship season! Please share the following opportunities with students, and encourage them to apply by the deadlines.



Every year, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation awards more than 300 scholarships to talented and deserving students that demonstrate leadership ability through exemplary community service and academic talent. The CBC's scholarship programs support current or upcoming college students across a variety of disciplines. All students must be 1) qualified African American or black students and 2) U.S. Citizens or legal permanent residents. Additional requirements are noted below.

2021 CBC Spouses Essay Contest – Deadline April 30, 2021

Scholarship amount: The top three winning entries will receive \$2,000, \$1,500, and \$1,250.

Share how the educational goals you hope to achieve will position you to be a change agent in your community. Explain why you believe that your ideas will make things better.

Requirements: grades 11 or 12 at time of submission of essay. To apply, click [HERE](#).

2021 CBC Spouses Education Scholarship – Deadline April 30, 2021

Scholarship amount: varies (\$2,500 to \$20,000).

This scholarship will be awarded to outstanding African American college students residing or attending college in a Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) member district. **Requirements:** full-time undergraduate and graduate students of all majors; current minimum GPA of 2.5; demonstrate financial need; demonstrate leadership ability. Click [HERE](#) to apply.

2021 CBC Spouses Performing and Visual Arts Scholarship – Deadline April 30, 2021

Scholarship amount: \$5,000.

This scholarship will be awarded to outstanding African American students pursuing a major in the performing and visual arts including, but not limited to drama, music, dance, opera, marching bands and other musical ensembles architecture, ceramics, drawing, fashion, graphic design, illustration, interior design, painting, photography, sketching, video production, and other decorative arts. **Requirements:** enrolled full-time for the 2021-2022 school year; currently pursuing a major and career in performing or visual arts; current minimum GPA of 2.5; exhibit leadership and community service. Click [HERE](#) to apply.

2021 HBCU Scholarship – Deadline April 30, 2021

Part of the National Racial Equity Initiative for Social Justice, this scholarship will be awarded to academically talented and highly motivated African American students attending a Historically Black College or University (HBCU). Eligible students include those at the undergraduate, graduate, or doctoral level pursuing relevant studies related to social justice policies such as criminal justice reform, the school to prison pipeline, and racial bias in education/employment. **Requirements:** full-time undergraduate at an accredited HBCU; current minimum GPA of 3.0; exhibit leadership and be active in the community. Click [HERE](#) to apply.

United Health Foundation | Louis Stokes Health Scholars Program – Deadline April 30, 2021

Scholarship amount: varies (maximum \$8,000).

This is a multi-year scholarship for all full-time undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students pursuing a degree that will lead to a career as a primary health professional including, but not limited to, general practitioners, internists, family practitioners, OB/GYNs, pediatricians, public health professionals, mental health professionals, nurses, physician assistants, and pharmacists. **Requirements:** enrolled full-time for the 2021-2022 school year; currently pursuing a major that will lead to a career as a primary health care professional; current minimum GPA of 3.0; exhibit leadership and community service. Click [HERE](#) to apply.

Ally Financial Scholarships

Ally Financial Law Scholars Program – Deadline April 30, 2021

Scholarship amount: \$20,000.

Open to undergraduate rising African American seniors who are entering law school upon earning a bachelor's degree. Requirements: enrolled full-time at an accredited college or university; rising or graduating senior entering law school upon receiving undergraduate degree; minimum 3.0 GPA on 4.0 scale; exhibit leadership and be active in the community. Click [HERE](#) to apply.

Ally Financial Public Policy Scholars Program – Deadline April 30, 2021

Scholarship amount: \$10,000.

This opportunity awards academically talented and highly motivated African American students pursuing an undergraduate degree in Public Policy to include, but not limited to, political science, public policy analysis, and public administration. Requirements: demonstrate a commitment to public policy; enrolled full-time at an accredited college or university; minimum 3.0 GPA on 4.0 scale; exhibit leadership and be active in the community. Click [HERE](#) to apply.

CABAA 2021 Scholarships: Apply now!



Due June 1, 2021

- Ken Johnson Memorial Scholarship
- CABAA/Maintenance Committee Financial Scholarship
- CABAA Financial Scholarship
- FlightSafety/CAE Maintenance Professional Training Award
- FlightSafety Principles of Troubleshooting Training Award
- FlightSafety and CAE SIC Professional Pilot Training Award

VISIT WWW.CABAA.COM/APPLICATIONS TO LEARN MORE!



Donate Today!

One person *can* make a difference. Your generosity will help the AeroStar Avion Institute train and prepare students—K-12, college, and beyond—to pursue the aviation and aerospace careers of their dreams!

Please donate!

We're fired up about our mission to train and employ youth in this exciting industry, and we need your help more than ever before. To give, click **HERE**. Your donation is tax deductible, and 100% of your gift goes toward training the next generation of aviation and aerospace professionals.

Invest in the passion ... the mission ... DONATE NOW!

Give Wings to Dreams!

Book Teaches Kids to Fly Through Fear

What if you were afraid to fly? Authors Kenyatta Scott and Tamera L. Holmes join forces to show girls and boys how to face their fears!



Tamera L. Holmes Teaches Violet How to Fly Through Fear!

Follow along as ***Violet Takes Flight*** for the first time! Daddy teaches her and her brother Derek the true meaning of "doing it afraid." Follow along as Pilot Holmes makes her literary debut as Violet's flight teacher!

30% of all book sales support AeroStar Avion Institute, NFP, a female, minority owned NFP that teaches underrepresented youth in underserved neighborhoods about aviation STEM careers.

Buy your copy of ***Violet Takes Flight*** **HERE** today!

#thevioletbookseries
#wingstodreams

ON THE RADAR



The Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals (OBAP) has joined with United Airlines and JP Morgan Chase to "diversify and support the next generation of pilots." The effort will "identify candidates for United's Aviate Academy, select applicants to receive

nearly \$300,000 in scholarships and grants, and train 5,000 new pilots by 2030." For more information, click [HERE](#).

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