



## Welcome to AeroStar News!

### Your Gift Can Give Wings to Dreams This Holiday!



Dear AeroStars,

This time last year, our beloved AeroStar donors responded to our call for donations, and we were blown away! Little did we know, their generosity would help us make 2020 (our most challenging year yet) a success. When schools were forced to close their doors due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we launched the AeroVerse E-Learning Academy so that our students could continue to learn and move toward the aviation and aerospace careers of their dreams!

During this giving season, I'd like to take this moment to personally request your support once again. Let me explain why your generosity is more urgent than ever before.

For the past decade, AeroStar has embarked on the biggest, the boldest, the most ambitious construction project of a lifetime. We are building a school-to-work talent pipeline connecting students in underrepresented communities to careers in aviation and aerospace.

These communities contain a goldmine of STEM talent. Yet, in the aviation industry, it has been extremely difficult for minorities and females to compete for well-paying careers. Of all airline pilots and flight engineers:

- 93.7% are white, but only...
- 3.4% are Asian.
- 2.6% are black or African American.
- 2.2% are Hispanic or Latino.
- Only 7.9% of pilots and 4.3% of flight engineers are women.
- Less than 1% of pilots are African American women.

Not only is AeroStar providing training and mentoring for students K-12, college, and beyond, we are diversifying the labor force in a powerful way.

Our students are not looking for a handout. We're training them to fill a critical need in America's workforce. Over the next ten years, "educational outreach and career pathway programs will be essential to inspiring and recruiting the next generation" of aviation professionals (Boeing's Pilot and Technician Outlook 2020-2039).

The AeroVerse E-Learning Academy is right on time...

"Amid challenges posed by COVID-19, the training industry has begun to adopt increasingly innovative solutions. Many providers have transitioned their offerings to online and virtual formats where possible, allowing students to continue their learning safely. Immersive technologies, adaptive learning and flexible distance learning methods are also being explored to enable optimum learning and knowledge retention. Investments in technology that are being made today will likely lead to a long-term fundamental shift in how training is conducted" (Boeing).

### **Our Bold Vision for 2021**

Training will continue in the AeroVerse E-Learning Academy, and when schools return to in-person learning, we will be there to provide the hands-on training and mentoring students have enjoyed for more than a decade.

Also in 2021, we will embark on our most ambitious project yet. We will launch apprenticeship programs in Aircraft Maintenance and Flight! Apprenticeships are a critical component in American workforce development. Last month saw movement in the Congress to reauthorize the National Apprenticeship Act ([H.R. 8294](#)). Our apprenticeship programs place AeroStar at the forefront and leading edge of workforce development in the aviation and aerospace industries.

Your generous gift will give wings to AeroStar's talent pipeline development!

### **Donate!**

We have a lot of work to do, and we need your financial support to continue to provide free and low-cost training to students. A gift of \$250 will help pay tuition for one high school student, two middle schoolers, and an entire kindergarten classroom!

Thanks to the generosity of our funders, partners, and donors, AeroStar is smashing glass ceilings and kickstarting engines. Please make a donation, large or small, to AeroStar. Your contribution will go a long way towards training the next generation of aviation and aerospace professionals.

Team AeroStar's vision is bold, but we're not scared! Click the [link](#) and give during this holiday season. We appreciate you!

Have a happy, SAFE holiday!

Give Wings to Dreams!

### **Tammera L. Holmes**

President & CEO, AeroStar Consulting Corporation  
Founder & CEO, AeroStar Avion Institute NFP

#wingstodreams

## **In Memoriam**



*Celeste Jones and Founder/CEO Tammera L. Holmes*

Celeste Jones was a valued member of Team AeroStar. She was the Database Manager for our constituent management system, Neon, and had more than 20 years of database management experience. A joy to work with, Celeste had a smile that would light up the Zoom. She had a passion for serving youth, and spent more than 40 years working as a church youth leader. She will be missed.

Celeste, you have earned your wings! Continue to Fly High!

# 2020 Year In Review

Team AeroStar is grateful for our students and parents, our funders, partners, donors, and volunteers. Despite the many challenges that faced us all, we end 2020 in high orbit!

- For the third straight year, Boeing financially supported our training and mentoring programs.
- United Airlines continues to be AeroStar's official airline partner.
- The Community Programs Accelerator at the University of Chicago helped us every step of the way to strengthen our management systems, build organizational capacity, and implement our strategic plan. (Please see the video below)
- Founder/CEO Tammera L. Holmes was appointed to serve on the FAA's Youth Access to American Jobs in Aviation Task Force.
- We launched the AeroVerse E-Learning Academy, and are now delivering AeroStar's proprietary curriculum virtually.
- During the summer term, 5th–8th graders attended Project Exploration on AeroVerse.

We delivered AeroStar's training to organizations near and far:

- Disney Dreamers Academy
- Gary Area Career Center
- Urban League Conference
- National Diversity Council
- Steam Ambassadors
- Chicago Foundation for the Common Good

Many thanks to the marketing and communications professionals who generously donated their time and expertise to serve on our newly formed Media and Marketing Advisory Committee:

- Amber Marie Green, Amber Marie Green Photography
- Jacqueline Camacho-Ruiz, JJR Marketing
- Leigh Dow, 48 West Agency
- Krupa Patel, Global Citizen
- Marissa Warren, United Airlines
- Venita Walker, GE Aviation



## Make a Tax Deductible Gift Today!

This year tested the missions of all nonprofit organizations, but AeroStar refused to be grounded by COVID-19 and the closing of schools. We launched the AeroVerse E-Learning Academy, and we will **safely** return students in-person learning when schools re-open.

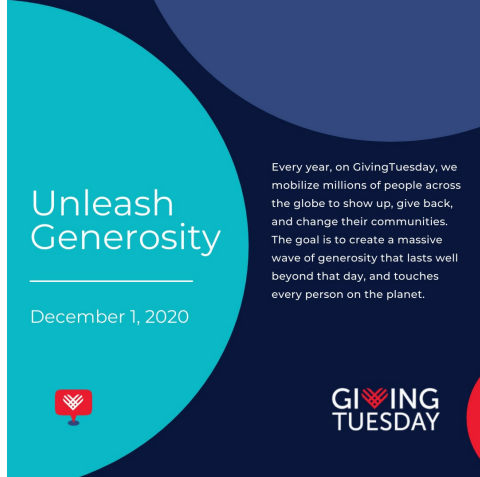
We need your help more than ever!

In this season of giving, AeroStar is participating in the programs below.

But don't wait for the end of the year to support worthy aviation students K–12, college, and beyond. Make your contribution **today** via Amazon Smile or #GivingTuesday everyday!



GIVE WINGS WITH A SMILE



### #GIVINGTUESDAY EVERYDAY!

Let the spirit of #GivingTuesday reign every day in December! Help us give students the lessons they'll need to become the aviation professionals of tomorrow. Donate [HERE](#).

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

Remember to choose **AeroStar Avion Institute** as your charitable organization!

## AeroStar Training: Your Ticket to Fly!

Congratulations to all of our virtual program participants! During 2020, you gave us life! Through thick and thin, AeroStar students kept learning, even when their schools closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some had perfect attendance, and some went above and beyond to communicate with their instructors. We're proud of you!

During the Spring 2021 term, we look forward to working with our returning students, and we'll be welcoming new students as well. Stay tuned for a big AeroVerse announcements in January!

**Launch Your Aviation Career at  
the AeroVerse E-Learning Academy!**  
(click [here](#) for details)

## New Book Teaches Kids to Fly Through Fear

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



### Tammera 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!

## HELP WANTED



The AeroStar Avion Institute is seeking an Aviation Flight Program Instructor to teach our proprietary curriculum to high school students at the Gary Area Career Center in Gary, Indiana.

Are you looking for an aviation job in the Northwest Indiana area?

Do you have strong STEM and aviation skills?

Do you live in the Gary area, or do you plan to relocate?

Do you enjoy working with youth?

If you answered yes to all of the above, then we need you now! Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Gary Schools are in-person with social distancing Monday–Friday from 11am–2:30pm. If school district guidance changes, remote learning may resume.

Click [HERE](#) to apply. Good luck!

## On the Radar



*Victor J. Glover, Jr., NASA Astronaut |  
Commander, U.S. Navy  
Credits: [NASA](#)*

### African American First in Aerospace

Congratulations to Commander Victor Glover, who made aerospace history on November 17th! Glover joined a crew of scientists and researchers aboard the International Space Station. He is the first African American astronaut to serve on the manned satellite for a six-month tour of duty. On December 3rd, students across the nation had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to speak to him live from the Space Station on NASA TV!

### Did You Know?

The ISS flies 17,100 miles per hour, 248 miles above earth orbit!

To learn more about Commander Glover's historic talk with students, click [HERE](#).

## Happy Wingmas!





We know 2020 has been a very trying and life altering year for many. Our hope is that 2021 brings you and your family blessings of peace, love, good health, and an abundance of joy. The AeroStar family looks forward to seeing you and our wonderful students in the new year as we continue our mission to "Give Wings to Dreams".

Have a wonderful (and safe) holiday season!

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