



Welcome to AeroStar News!



Dear AeroStars,

This year, the United States Secretary of Transportation appointed me to serve on the Federal Aviation Administration's Youth Access to American Jobs in Aviation Task Force! Not only am I honored to serve with other aviation professionals, this appointment will help us (1) build AeroStar's school-to-career pipeline with enhanced resources and opportunities for students K-12, college, and beyond and (2) increase diversity in the aviation workplace.

The following is an excerpt of the speech I made during the first meeting of the Task Force. You can watch the video above or click [HERE](#) for the full FAA Task Force video. My introduction begins at the 1:10:00 timestamp.

RE: Tamera L. Holmes' Appointment to the Federal Aviation Administration's Youth Access to American Jobs in Aviation Task Force

I am honored to accept my appointment by the United States Secretary of Transportation to the Youth Access to American Jobs in Aviation Task Force.

I started my introduction to aviation at 16 years old with a Young Eagles flight, with the Chicago-area Tuskegee Airmen. That was an incredible experience for me as a young African-American girl from an underserved background, showing up to an airport in downtown Chicago with a bunch of Black guys giving kids airplane rides. I couldn't believe it, and it was really an eye-opening experience for me, having been one of those "feisty" children or one of those young persons who was really looking for direction. I excelled academically, and aviation wound up being an extraordinary career for me. It actually saved my life. I believe it put me on a completely different trajectory than would have been otherwise.

My main focus and my goal on the Task Force is to provide resources and opportunities for African-American, Latino, and other underserved populations who do not have access to the exposure and support to be able to pursue careers in aviation.

I graduated from Southern Illinois University with a degree in aviation management, having been one of only two African-American female aviation students out of 200 in four years. I hold over 100 hours of flight time, but I decided early on that I did not want to be a pilot for a living. I spent 11 years as a professional aviation consultant, and that's really what opened my eyes up to the litany of jobs that support and undergird the airport operations, maintenance, revenue, utilities, and the infrastructure for facilities around the country. For seven years, I was the only African-American working for that company globally. So it is really important for me to be on this Task Force to represent not just diversity when it comes to females, but also students from underserved backgrounds.

The deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and so many others have exhausted the conscience of America. I have decided, as the Founder & CEO of the AeroStar Avion Institute, we can no longer merely focus on the lack of diversity in aviation professions, without also being able to address the generations of systematic injustice and institutional racism that has plagued the aviation industry throughout history, right up to present day.

- *Eugene Jacques Bullard, who was the first African American pilot in World War I, was subsequently found as an elderly man, working as an elevator operator in Rockefeller Center, unable to ever make a living as a pilot.*
- *Bessie Coleman, who would not be able to learn to fly at any American establishment due to her race and gender, traveled to France to learn. She would go on to become the first woman in the world to obtain an international pilot's license. And she did it two years before Amelia Earhart, although she remains relatively unknown and the latter is world-famous.*
- *The Tuskegee Airmen, who were some of the most proficient pilots to ever fly for the United States armed forces, were segregated in barracks unfit for animals and returned home to their country only to be spat on, even while wearing their military uniforms. None of those men were ever able to secure employment as professional pilots in America, and many of them never flew an airplane again after leaving the military.*
- *Marlon Green, also a former military aviator, paved the way as the first Black airline pilot, but only after suing Continental Airlines in a landmark Supreme Court case in 1963.*

Fast forward to today. A lot has changed, but even more has stayed the same. The aviation industry is still 92% White male. High cost of programming and training, the lack of opportunity to explore aviation career pathways in underserved communities, discriminatory practices in admissions offices at university aviation programs across the country, and bias in Human Resources quarters throughout the aviation industry, are all barriers to diversity and inclusion. The personal stories of myself and an innumerable amount of my minority colleagues is a singular story, so familiar that it is frightening to think our AeroStars will have to endure what so many of us already have in this industry... unless something changes NOW.

My hope is that as we have had an awakening of the value that skilled trades bring back to academia, I hope we are continuing to have the awakening of the contributions that African-Americans and Latinos and other underserved and underrepresented populations have made to the aviation and aerospace industries for the past 120 years. It's very important to recognize those and to address the issue of the aviation industry still being less than four percent African-American. I am dedicated not only to serving on the Federal Aviation Administration's Youth Access to American Jobs in Aviation Task Force, but also to be a part of the movement that brings the findings of this Task Force into fruition for the betterment of the aviation and aerospace industries in the United States of America at large.

We're Giving Wings to Dreams!

Tammera L. Holmes

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

#wingstodreams

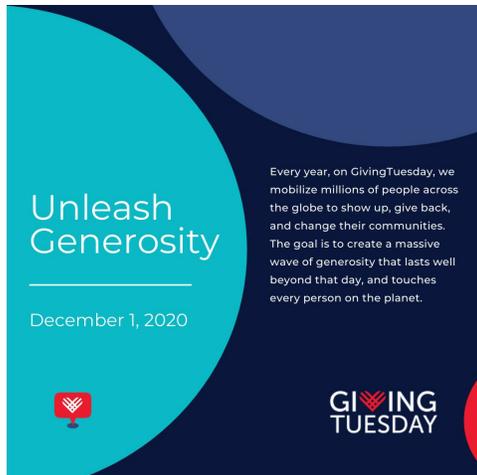
Make a Tax Deductible Gift Today!

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, our e-learning platform, and we're looking into ways to **safely** return students to in person learning.

We need your help more than ever!

As AeroStar enters the season of giving, we're 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 on December 1st!



GIVING TUESDAY

This year, #GivingTuesday falls on December 1st. Mark the date and donate! Help us give students the lessons they'll need to become the aviation professionals of tomorrow. Donate [HERE](#)



GIVE WINGS WITH A SMILE

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 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!

Registration for Fall Programs Is Now Open

A flyer for AeroStar Training. It features a large image of a jet engine. Text includes 'Register Now' in a blue box, 'Programs' with details for 'AeroSparks Online: K - 4th Grade (5 Saturdays, choose 1 or register for all 5)', 'Online Aviation Programs: 5th - 8th Grade (10 week Saturday program)', and 'Online Aviation Programs: 9th - 12th Grade (10 week after-school program + 1 week intensive in December)'. A 'We Offer:' section lists: Live Instruction, Industry Experts, Virtual Field Trips, Guest Speakers, Interactive Activities, Mentorship, and More! There is a yellow circle with 'Financial Assistance Available' and a footer with 'For more info www.aalaeroverse.com'.

K-4 Students

- Node 1: Introduction to Aviation and Aerospace
- Session 1: Introduction to Aviation and Aerospace
- Session 2: History of Aviation
- Session 3: Aircraft Anatomy
- Session 4: Theory of Flight
- Session 5: Airport Basics

5th-8th Grade | Middle School Students

- Node 1: Introduction to Aviation and Aerospace
- Node 2: Intermediate Aviation Exploration

9th-12th Grade | High School Students

- Node 1: Introduction to Aviation and Aerospace
- Node 2: Intermediate Aviation Exploration
- Node 3: Advanced Aviation Concepts

Launch Your Aviation Career on the AeroVerse! (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!

#thevioletbookseries
#wingstodreams

On the Radar



Authors Scott and Holmes landed the cover of *Aviation for Women* (November/December), a magazine published by Women in Aviation International! Their book, *Violet Takes Flight*, has taken the world of aviation by storm and is destined to become a global bestseller. Learning how to fly through fear, in every area of life, is what this powerful book is all about!

Read the article [HERE](#) (membership required).

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Have A Safe and Joyful Thanksgiving!



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