



Welcome to AeroStar News!

The Fight for Jobs and Freedom 2.0



Dear AeroStar Family and Friends,

This month we celebrate the 58th anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. On August 28, 1963, more than 250,000 civil rights demonstrators gathered at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, to advocate for a more just, equitable, and inclusive society.

It was at this March that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his famous "I Have A Dream" speech. Even today, some 58 years later, his powerful words compel me, and all of us, to action. Dr. King said, "We have...come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of Now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. **NOW IS THE TIME** to make real, the promises of democracy."

This centerpiece of the civil rights movement led to President Lyndon Johnson's signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the National Voting Rights Act of 1965. Unfortunately, erosions in these laws over time have brought us back to an eerily familiar fight today.

The Aviation Workforce and the Urgency of Now

The high tech advancements of the 21st century might have looked like science fiction to those in Dr. King's day, but discrimination in the workplace and unequal access to education and training remain the same, especially within the aviation industry. 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 0.5% of pilots are African American women.

At AeroStar, our mission is training, but our **VISION** is to diversify the labor force with trained African American, Hispanic, and female professionals from underrepresented communities. The case we make to our partners and the industry at-large is to look no further than AeroStar. We are training the talent you need, and indeed, the need is great.

According to Boeing's Pilot and Technician Outlook study (2020–2039), over the next 20 years, North America will require 208,000 new pilots and 192,000 new maintenance

technicians to staff the commercial aviation, business aviation, and civil helicopter industries.

NOTE: These projections factor in the downturn in travel due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, as well as the ongoing recovery. Boeing estimates that it will take approximately three years to return to 2019 levels.

As employee attrition increases in the midst of a challenging recovery, AeroStar students will be ready to take their rightful place as the next generation of pilots, engineers, mechanics, and technicians. The survival of the industry depends on work like ours!

FAA Youth In Aviation Task Force

In 2020, I was appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation to serve on the Youth Access to American Jobs in Aviation Task Force. In my work with the Task Force, I've received confirmation time and again that AeroStar's school-to-career talent pipeline is seen as a successful national model for helping underrepresented youth gain access to the aviation workforce.

In our recent quarterly meeting in June, the Task Force proposed the following innovative approaches to improving access to training and education, fostering diversity and inclusion in the industry, and enhancing success on the job:

- Raise awareness of aviation careers in HBCUs and community colleges.
- Focus on formative years (ages 10 and 18). Reach out to teachers, guidance counselors, and parents.
- Communicate to underrepresented communities through online platforms, especially social media.
- Forgive loans for service working in an aerospace job such as pilot, maintenance technician, or engineer.
- Improve tracking and data collection efforts of minorities, from school to career.
- Increase funding to relevant community-based organizations.

Training and Jobs NOW!

When it comes to AeroStar student achievement, we have much to celebrate this month! In this issue, you'll meet five AeroStars who received their pilot's license this summer, thanks to our partnership with Tuskegee NEXT.

And thanks to the generosity of The Boeing Company, we have officially expanded our K-career Aviation talent pipeline into Northwest Indiana through our work at The Gary Area Career Center and the John Will Anderson Boys & Girls Club.

This summer's internship program was a great success! Our four interns worked in our Administration, Operations, Programs, and Media/Marketing departments. I'd like to personally thank them for all their hard work and wish them much success in their future educational and career endeavors.

- **Alexis Brownlow** graduated Valedictorian of Wendell Phillips Academy, Class of 2021. She plans to major in Engineering at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, on a full, four-year Posse Scholarship beginning Fall 2022.
- **Yair Atlas** is a senior at the University of Chicago. He is majoring in Philosophy with an interest in Ethics and minoring in Physics.
- **Kendall Ankum** is a senior at Alabama A&M University, and is majoring in Business Administration.
- **Erik Rico** is a rising senior at Roosevelt High School. He is part of the Cisco Networking pathway in the IT cluster, CTE program, Chicago Public Schools.

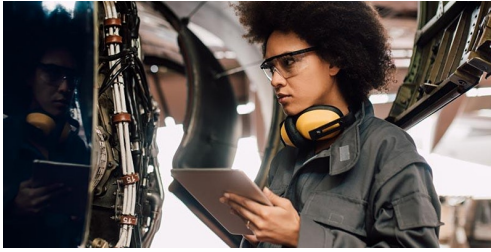
AeroStar's pipeline model is making a difference in the lives of our students, their families, and the community at large. We're growing fast, and in the spirit of Dr. King's "I have a dream" call to action, we are literally "Giving Wings to Dreams!"

Tammera L. Holmes

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

#wingstodreams

AeroStar, Olive-Harvey Partnership Expands Aviation Training for CPS Juniors



Beginning September 13, high school juniors who want to build on the STEM and aviation knowledge they've received at AeroStar can now take a college-level Aviation Maintenance Tech course at Olive-Harvey College (free of charge for CPS students)! Thanks to a partnership between AeroStar and Olive-Harvey, high school juniors will be trained and certified for entry-level

jobs in the industry.

Hands-On Learning

The program introduces the theory and basic skills needed to assist aircraft sheet metal mechanics and to perform aircraft sheet metal modification and repair. With a hands-on approach to learning, students acquire essential knowledge in mathematics, physics, tool usage, maintenance operations, general electricity current, and emerging aviation maintenance technologies.

Upon completion of the Aviation Maintenance Tech course, students will be eligible to take the FAA general portion of the FAA Aviation Maintenance Technician certification exam. The certificate will qualify students for entry-level maintenance jobs.

According to Tamera Holmes, AeroStar's CEO and Founder, "Aviation training takes an important leap forward with the partnership between AeroStar and Olive-Harvey College. I've been working to get an aviation program at Olive-Harvey for nine years, and for them to actually launch the program on September 13 is important. We convinced them that they really can teach high school kids about aircraft maintenance, flight, and the business of aviation. To have an actual airplane onsite at a City College is groundbreaking! We should celebrate Olive-Harvey's investment in our community."

A Cessna 152 craft is now parked at the TDL Center at Olive-Harvey. "I really like that the students will be able to work on the plane and take it apart and put it back together over and over again," said Holmes.

"It has been a wonderful partnership with AeroStar, and now that we have the Aviation Maintenance Program, high school juniors can earn their A&P certification, and we are very excited to begin on September 13," said Cheryl Freeman Smith, Dean of Career Programs and Continuing Education at Olive-Harvey.

Interest List Open

High school juniors who are interested in taking the free Aviation Maintenance Tech course can subscribe to the Olive-Harvey Interest List [HERE!](#)



AeroStar students and the Cessna 152, Olive-Harvey College

AeroStar Students Earn Their Wings

AeroStar News is delighted to report that five AeroStar alums have earned their private pilot's license this summer! Students flew a cross country solo as part of their flight training. Needless to say, we're proud!



Neftaly Mora, Lewis University



Isaias Toledo, Southern Illinois University



Jaylen Bush, AeroStar Ambassador, Lewis University, BS in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (2021 graduate)



Sarai Stewart, majoring in Aeronautical Science with a concentration in Flight at Florida Memorial University



Jaylenn Westmoreland, Lewis University

Boeing Mentors Students, Interns, Staff for Career Success

Alexis Brownlow

Select AeroStar high school and college students, interns, and staff participated in The Boeing Company's Virtual Mentoring Event on July 20th. Aviation and aerospace professionals offered one-on-one mentoring and college and career guidance. Following are a few enthusiastic testimonials.

The Boeing Company's Career Coaching and Mentoring Day was phenomenal! Boeing's webinar helped me gain strong words of wisdom, encouragement, and support for my future plans. During the panel discussion, I was able to learn from the experiences of several Boeing employees from across the United States. An outstanding young



woman named Natsnet Demoz, a data scientist at Boeing, conveyed some inspiring advice. She acknowledged that students should: "Take ownership of their career. . .have a desire to be a continuous learner. . .be open!" This sparked my brain, and left a huge imprint on how I present myself in a professional work setting. I increased my confidence and social awareness by listening and participating in conversations with mentors. I enjoyed Boeing's event because it allowed me to see how professionals learn and develop skills.

Alexis Brownlow is an AeroStar intern. She graduated Valedictorian of Wendell Phillips Academy, Class of 2021. She plans to major in Engineering at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, on a full, four-year Posse Scholarship beginning Fall 2022.

Yair Atlas



During the Boeing Career Coaching and Mentoring Day, I was given the opportunity to discuss and learn about aviation, related occupations, and general career advice. The Boeing staff were all informed, enthusiastic, and eager to help. I'd recommend the event to anyone interested in future career development.

Yair Atlas is an AeroStar intern and a senior at the University of Chicago. He is majoring in philosophy with an interest in ethics and minoring in physics.

Sophia Velez



As an AeroStar staff member, I found the Boeing Career Coaching and Mentoring Day to be incredibly insightful!

Through my participation in the event, I was able to speak one-on-one with Boeing professionals and receive information about the ways in which Boeing strives to support its employees and how the company can further serve as a resource for our AeroStars as they transition into college and/or the career force.

I think it was also eye-opening for myself and some of our AeroStar interns who were on the call to learn about all of the many career pathways Boeing has to offer – even if someone does not have a background in aviation. The takeaway is that this industry – the world of aviation and STEM – can open doors for our next generation of leaders in ways that are seemingly impossible. The event exemplified this as several of the professionals on the call shared how joining the Boeing team and entering the field of aviation changed their career pathways in delightfully unexpected ways.

I am grateful for our partnership with The Boeing Company as it provides us access to opportunities like this one! Thank you, Boeing, for your continued commitment to giving

wings to the dreams of our AeroStars!

Sophia Velez is Program Manager, AeroStar Avion Institute.

AeroStar Student Attends Space Camp



My name is Jorge Toledo. I am 17 years old and a senior at Air Force Academy High School. This summer, I received a scholarship to attend Advanced Space Academy, a hands on, in-depth program that allows teens to experience and train like astronauts in space.

Once I was selected, I had to have an ECG (electrocardiogram) done so that I could do the scuba portion of the program.

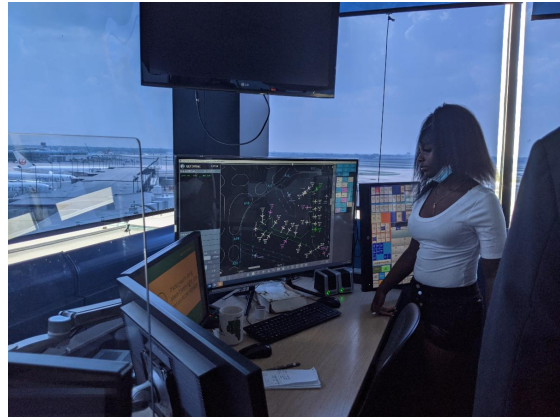
We learned about the involvement of mankind in space. We also talked about the world's future in space. I aspire to be one of the astronauts that would be sent to Mars, and the first to set foot on the Martian Soil.

AeroStar Logbook, Summer Field Trips

After more than a year of teaching on the AeroVerse, our e-learning platform, this summer we implemented our hybrid model, which combines online learning with field trips. Following is our logbook of the summer's in-person activities!

American Airlines Tour

O'Hare International Airport Chicago, Illinois



EEA AirVenture Air Show Oshkosh, Wisconsin





Aviation Activity Day

Olive Harvey College Chicago, Illinois



AeroStar students demonstrate how Bernoulli's Principle explains lift. (An increase in speed leads to a decrease in pressure.)



Dean Cheryl Freeman Smith discusses the Aviation Maintenance program to AeroStar students



Cheryl Freeman Smith, Dean of Career Programs and Continuing Education at Olive-Harvey, and Tammera Holmes, CEO/Founder, AeroStar

Bud Billiken Parade Chicago, Illinois



Chicago Bears Training Camp Lake Forest, Illinois



AeroStar Student Wins Scholarship

AeroStar is pleased to award one of our own deserving students a \$1,000 scholarship to receive their pilot's license with Tuskegee Next! The award to **Naiyema Akil** was announced at Tuskegee Next's 2021 Red Tail Ball.

Naiyema is a senior at Gary Area Career Center. She joined GACC's inaugural flight program during summer 2020.

AeroStar and Tuskegee Next have been partners since 2014. Some 14 AeroStar students have trained with the organization to receive their pilot's license.



*AeroStars in front of an FA-18 fighter jet at
Tuskegee Next's 2021 Red Tail Ball.
The formal event was held at DuPage Airport.*

Scholarships Available!



Chicago's Leading Chapter of Women In Aviation is offering three \$1,500 scholarships in the following areas: **Flight Training, Aviation Business, and Aviation Maintenance.**

Applications are due October 12, 2021. Applicants must be active members of Women in Aviation International by October 1, 2021, as well as registered members of the Chicago chapter. These scholarships are given exclusively to members only.

Applicants must live in the Greater Chicagoland Area to be considered for all scholarships and provide a flight school or university for the funds to be delivered. All scholarships must be used within one calendar year of presentation.

To Apply

Electronic membership form [HERE](#).

Application forms [HERE](#), [HERE](#), [HERE](#).

Email to: Chicagosleadingedge@gmail.com. Include "Scholarship" in the subject line.

Mail to: WAI Scholarship Committee c/o Sherry Bailey-Schutt, 6812 W. Keeney Street, Niles, IL 60714.

For more information, contact: Sherry Bailey-Schutt at sschutt67@gmail.com.

Help Wanted

Southwest Stores Department is looking to hire 10 Material Specialists. Starting pay is \$15/hour. Must have a driver's

Subscribe to AeroStar Interest Lists for FALL Courses (Click [here](#) for details)



Are you serious about pursuing an aviation career? Want to improve your STEM knowledge? Registration for the Fall term at AeroStar opens in September, so subscribe to our Interest Lists today! Safety protocols permitting, our Fall program will have both online and in-person sessions.

Aviation grades 9–12, subscribe [HERE](#).

Aviation grades 5–8, subscribe [HERE](#).

AeroSparks grades K–4, subscribe [HERE](#).

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 Tammera L. Holmes join forces to show girls and boys how to face their fears!

Tammera 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

Violet Takes Flight



By: Bernette Scott
Illustrated By: Michelle Valente



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



Please Save the Date!

On the evening of Saturday, August 28, 2021, The DuSable Museum will continue its 60th Anniversary celebration by commemorating the 58th anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom as we re-launch our immersive virtual reality experience, "The March," in partnership with TIME, USA.

*We hope that you will mark your calendar to join us!
Further details will be provided soon.*

Saturday, August 28, 2021

**The DuSable Museum of African American History
740 East 56th Place
Chicago, Illinois**

**For questions about sponsorship packages,
please contact Hanah Jubeh at hjubeh@dusablemuseum.org**

For more information on this important virtual event, click [HERE](#).

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