



Welcome to AeroStar News!

Boeing and AeroStar: A Partnership That's Giving Wings to Dreams



Dear AeroStar Family and Friends,

We're only halfway through 2021, and already we've seen graduation, internship, and career lift-offs for many AeroStar alums. AeroStar's training program, including our proprietary curriculum and industry-rated instructors, is among the best in the business. Few aviation education and training organizations have the capacity to scout young African American, Latino, and female talent in underserved communities like AeroStar.

We have been successful in achieving our mission due in large part to our partnership with The Boeing Company. Boeing joined forces with us in 2016 with a commitment to help fund our Aerospace Education Talent Pipeline Project. Since then, our partnership has launched training, mentoring, and awareness activities for thousands of students in Chicago and Northwest Indiana.

Boeing, the Definition of 'Involved Partner'

Year after year, I am impressed by, and grateful for, Boeing's generosity. Not only has funding from the Company allowed us to provide free and low-cost training to youth in underserved communities, their involvement goes above and beyond to ensure that students receive meaningful exposure to aviation and aerospace career opportunities.

Following are just a few ways Boeing has supported AeroStar over the years:

- Co-hosted Gary Aviation Day at Gary Airport with more than 500 students attending.
- Invested in the launch of our Aviation, Career and Technical Education (CTE) program at the Gary Area Career Center (GACC).
- Invested in virtual and augmented reality to enhance AeroStar's curriculum.
- Provided subject matter experts to speak at AeroStar programs.
- Contributed to our Board leadership with a representative from the Company.
- AeroStar summer program students will attend the exciting EEA AirVenture Air Show in Oshkosh, Wisconsin thanks to Boeing sponsorship.
- Select AeroStar high school and college students will participate in Boeing's Virtual Mentoring Event on July 20th. Aviation and aerospace professionals will offer one-

Bessie Coleman Centennial

Last month, AeroStar celebrated the phenomenal accomplishments of Bessie Coleman, and the celebration will continue throughout the year! Remembering Bessie keeps us focused on our mission: to train and mentor the next generation of African American, Latino, and female aviation and aerospace professionals. In this issue, you'll read about my reverence for this amazing Shero (with permission from BronzevilleLife.com, February-March 2019 issue).

Back to the Classroom

Our Summer session is in full swing on the Aeroverse, our online learning platform. For the first time since we launched Aeroverse, students are now enjoying our hybrid learning model: they're taking courses online while going on in-person field trips, including the exciting EEA AirVenture Air Show in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Looking ahead to the Fall term, AeroStar will continue the hybrid model as long as conditions are safe enough to do so. Student safety is our #1 priority, and we'll be monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic with a close eye. Stay tuned for details.

Giving Wings to Dreams!

Tammera L. Holmes

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

#wingstodreams
#BC100

Boeing-AeroStar Partnership Puts K-12 Gary Students in First-Class Training

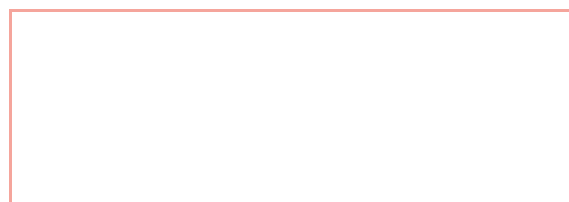
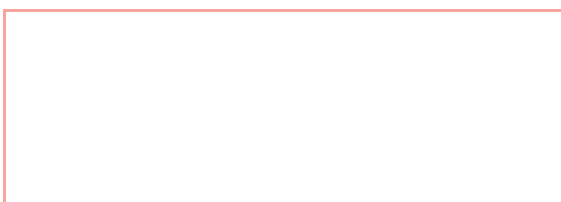
In 2016, AeroStar began looking for ways to duplicate its Chicago-based, state-of-the-art aviation program in the high-need area of Gary, Indiana. When a representative of Gary Community Schools reached out to Boeing in 2017 to launch an aviation program, Bea Billups, Senior Manager of Boeing Global Engagement, referred them to AeroStar. The partnership took off when the school invested in two Red Bird Flight Simulators.

All the program needed was a good instructor. At least that's what they thought. Tammera Holmes, CEO and Founder of AeroStar, had another idea.

"When I met with the Gary Area Career Center, I told them they needed much more than an instructor," says Holmes. "They needed a full high school aviation program."

The rest is history. After a year of planning, the program launched in 2020 at capacity with 16 students and one instructor from AeroStar.

"The Aviation program at the Gary Area Career Center has taken flight," says Shelly Martin, Director of CTE Curriculum, Instruction and Career Pathways, Gary Career Center-District 3. "Students are interested and engaged in lessons that have them looking forward to continuing their careers in aviation from all aspects. Through our great partnership with AeroStar, more students from diverse backgrounds are learning components in the field of aviation to accelerate their knowledge towards reaching their career endeavors."





Boeing partnered with AeroStar to launch Gary's first Aviation High School Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program at the Gary Area Career Center.



Eight students received certificates of completion; two received their Student Airmen Certificates (student pilot's licenses) from the FAA.



Boeing-sponsored Boys & Girls Club K-8 AeroStar Program takes kids for airplane rides at Gary Airport.



Boeing partners with AeroStar, Gary Boys & Girls Club, and the FAA Great Lakes Region to host Gary Aviation Day, with activities and lunch for more than 500 youth.

THEN & NOW by Deja Harrell



Bessie Coleman and Tammera Holmes

Two women, chins lifted, heads tilted, eyes gazed into the stretch of blue lingering overhead. That same blue, the sky, Bessie Coleman exalted into many years ago is the same sky Tammera Holmes flew into at 16, finding her passion.

Bessie Coleman's fervor for flight came during a time when women nor Blacks were allowed to enroll in American flight schools. Her determination flew her to Paris where she could earn her pilot's license. On June 15, 1921, Bessie Coleman became one of the first women to earn an aviation pilot's license and the first African-American to earn an international aviation license from the *Fédération Aéronautique Internationale*. Bessie was a trailblazer for Black people and women wanting to pursue careers in aviation. Her tenacity opened the world of aviation for women like Tammera Holmes, who, decades later, would carry on Bessie's legacy.

"At 16, my mom made me get up on a Saturday morning to go somewhere with my uncle. We pulled up at Museum Campus and so I thought we were about to go to a museum on a Saturday morning, I was furious. And before I knew it, we were pulling up to a building that looked like an airport. But it was *Meigs Field*. That's where I took my first flight. We walked into the facility and I was blown away," Tammera recalls of the day she fell in love with aviation. In fact, the men who put Tammera on her first flight were Tuskegee Airmen, the first black military aviators in the U.S. Army Air Corps. Tammera's journey is rooted in history. Since that day, Tammera, like Bessie, committed herself to making space within the clouds for people like her. In 2008, Tammera Holmes launched *AeroStar Corporation*, a professional and academic aviation consulting service. Perhaps her most important work—*AeroStar* offers an academic program exposing children of color, K-12, to careers within aviation. Speaking of her first flight, Tammera says, "I was flying over the skyline of Lake Michigan and I will never forget it. That day changed my life. It was because of that day and that flight that I decided to pursue aviation and that's why I do what I do. All I need is one day to get kids in my presence."

"Back in the day, when I was showing up for work I was usually the only woman and the only Black person. There were plenty of times people would look at me like I was going to make coffee or make copies instead of sitting at the meeting," Tammera recalls of the early days within her career. Bessie Coleman made it possible for Tammera to exist in traditionally homogenous spaces, however, the omnipresence of oppression forces women and people of color like Tammera to prove that she's in the room to lead, not assist. The adversity Bessie and Tammera both met served as inspiration to open aviation up for people who looked like them. Before Bessie's death, she sought to earn enough money for her own school for young black aviators. Almost 80 years later, Tammera Holmes has mentored and educated an abundance of youth who may go on to pursue paths within the world of aviation. Bessie's pioneering made way for women like Tammera to develop and nurture the future of aviation. Martin L. King, Jr. once said, "We are not makers of history. We are made by history."

Republished with permission from Bronzevillelife.com, Feb-Mar 2019.

Can You Imagine?

By Alexis Brownlow

AeroStar Intern

As a high school student, I challenged myself academically by taking the hardest classes offered. Not only did this allow me to complete most of my high school requirements by the end of my junior year, but it also surrounded me with the smartest kids in my grade, allowing me access to advanced work and studies. As a result, I expanded my knowledge and learned a lot from my teachers.



By working on these advanced assignments, I saw the pure power of education firsthand. I have learned that education gives us knowledge of the world around us and changes it into something better. I spent several of my days understanding the "why" behind things, while also uncovering solutions to common issues. In a world that increasingly prioritizes a singular solution, I am captivated by engineering's ability to continuously offer better answers to each problem, and different solutions.

Alexis Brownlow was 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.

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



Registration Extended for K-12 Summer 2021 Programs!

AeroSparks K-4: [HERE](#)

Grades 5-8: [HERE](#)

Grades 9-12: [HERE](#)

Register today!

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!**

Violet Takes Flight

By: Benjette Scott
Illustrated By: Michelle Valente



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



Delta Air Lines recognized as 'Best Places to Work for Disability Inclusion' for sixth year running

"For the sixth consecutive year, Delta Air Lines has been named one of the "Best Places to Work for Disability Inclusion." Announced today by Disability:IN and The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), the company earned a top score of 100 percent on the 2021 Disability Equality Index®, the world's most comprehensive benchmarking tool for the Fortune 1000 to measure disability workplace inclusion against competitors." [SOURCE](#)

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