



Welcome to AeroStar News!

The Arc of AeroStar's Mission Bends Toward An Inclusive Aviation Workforce



Dear AeroStar Family and Friends,

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said that "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice." This month, as we celebrate Dr. King's birthday, I'd like to reflect on the impact of AeroStar's moral arc on the aviation industry and its hiring practices.

For years, The Boeing Company has accurately projected critical labor shortages in its annual Pilot and Technician Outlook Report. In fact, we're witnessing, in real time, thousands of cancelled flights and long lines at airports across the globe. Meanwhile, discrimination in the aviation workplace and unequal access to education and training have been slow to change. Of

all airline pilots and flight engineers, 93.7% are white; but only 2.6% are African American and less than 0.5% of pilots are African American women.

Bending the Arc Toward Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion

Slowly but surely, however, there is growing recognition within the industry that discrimination against minority STEM professionals is not only morally wrong, it is a self-inflicting obstacle to resolving the labor crisis. According to the Airline General Counsel, "There are just not enough men to fill the aviation industry's needs." If I could clarify, based on historical data... there are not enough white males. As AeroStar and our corporate partners have long recognized, training STEM talent in underrepresented communities offers a long-term solution to a problem that is threatening to destabilize the entire industry.

For the fifth year in a row, Boeing is supporting AeroStar's Aviation Talent Pipeline Project, which connects students directly to jobs and other post-secondary opportunities. Together, Boeing and AeroStar are rescuing an industry that is suffering critical labor shortages. Our school-to-work pipeline bends towards both social justice and good business practices. By preparing the next generation of aviation professionals, we are showing the industry that training STEM talent from underrepresented communities is not only socially just, it just makes good business sense. When students matriculate out of our program, they are ready, willing, and able to serve as pilots, engineers, computer scientists, drone pilots, and more in commercial aviation and the military.

As Dr. King said, "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase." Dr. King bequeathed to us a tremendous vision of equality for all, and AeroStar is urgently carrying the baton of social justice and faith forward in our work with students—one step, one student, at a time.

African American Aviation Firsts, Past and Present

I believe Dr. King would have been proud of the progress African Americans have made in aviation. In this issue of AeroStar News, we spotlight the African American trailblazers who paved the way for today's aviation professionals, many of whom are "firsts" in their fields, including:

- **David Elsworth Harris**, the first African American commercial airline pilot and first to achieve the rank of Pilot Captain for a major U.S. commercial airline (American Airlines).
- **Stephanie Johnson**, Delta Airlines' first black captain.
- **Lt. Andrea Lewis**, the first African American female pilot with the Georgia Air National Guard.
- **2nd Lieutenant Theresa M. Claiborne**, the first African American female pilot in the United States Air Force (USAF).

DONATE!

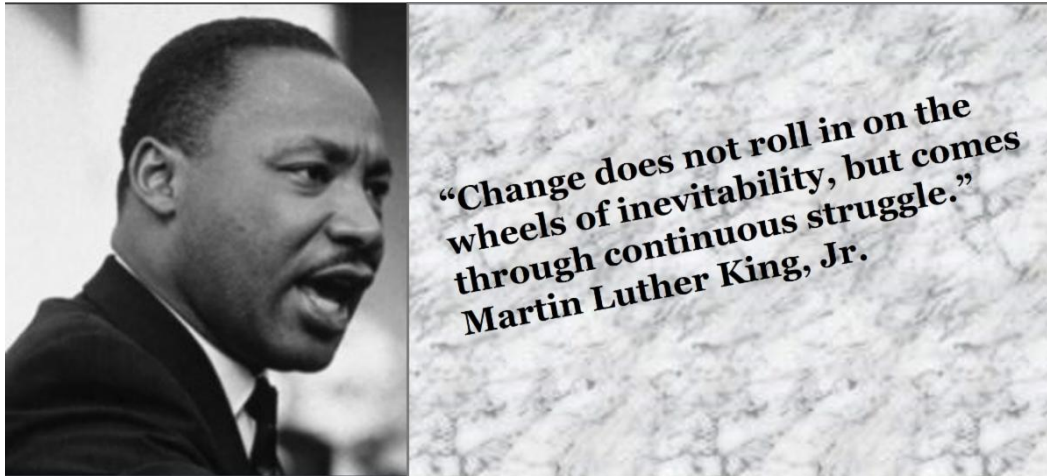
AeroStar is preparing the next generation of African American "firsts" in aviation and aerospace! Every dollar you donate to our mission will help us train worthy students, K-Career, who are passionate about pursuing their dream jobs in the industry. Please donate today!

Giving Wings to Dreams!

Tammera L. Holmes

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

#BoeingInspires #BoeingPartner #AeroStarAvion #WingstoDreams



Pioneers and Trailblazers: African American Contributions to Aviation

AeroStar salutes historic African American contributions to the field of aviation. Despite many obstacles, these sheroes and heroes of the past "continuously struggled" to pursue their dreams and create a powerful, sustaining foundation for our work with young people today.



EUGENE BULLARD: "Black Sparrow of Death"

Eugene Bullard was the first African American to become a licensed pilot. Born October 9, 1895 in Columbus, Georgia, he grew up during a dangerous time for blacks. Upon witnessing his father's close escape from being lynched, he stowed away on a German ship and landed in Scotland. He worked in London and later Paris as a boxer and entertainer. When World War I broke out, Bullard joined the 3rd marching regiment of the French Foreign Legion. He was wounded in March 1916, but a few months later, signed up with the French Air Service as an air gunner. On May 5, 1917, Bullard received his pilot's license from the Aéro-Club de France. Nicknamed "The Black Sparrow of Death," Bullard received many awards for his service in both World War I and II. In August 1994, he was posthumously commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force.



BESSIE COLEMAN: "Brave Bessie," "Queen Bess," "The Only Race Aviatrice in the World"

What scholars labeled as myth was transformed into reality on June 15, 1921, when a young woman from Chicago received her pilot's license. She was the first African American and Native American in the world to do so. Bessie Coleman was born in Atlanta, Texas, in 1892. As a young girl, she worked with her family in the cotton fields. In 1915, she moved to Chicago, where she worked odd jobs, including as a manicurist in a barber shop.

When her brothers came home from serving in the military during World War I, they fired her imagination with stories of life in France, including the freedom French women had to learn how to fly. From that moment on, Bessie decided she would become a flier. She journeyed to France to find a school that would take her, as the skies proved easier to conquer than racial and gender discrimination in America.

On June 15, 1921, Bessie Coleman received her pilot's license from the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale in France. Points to note:

- She was the first civilian-licensed African American pilot in the world.
- She toured the country barnstorming, parachute jumping, and giving lectures to raise money to open an African American flying school.
- She would only perform if the crowds were desegregated. Everyone, no matter their race, entered through the same gates at Bessie Coleman events.
- Coleman's dream was to open a flying school for African Americans, but she passed away before seeing it come to fruition.



JOHN C. ROBINSON: "Brown Condor"

John C. Robinson was a co-founder of the first airport built, owned, and operated by African Americans. Built in 1933, the airport was located in

WILLIAM J. POWELL: "Fill the air with black wings!"

During the 1920s, Los Angeles became an important center for African American aviation. In 1929, inspired by Bessie Coleman's legacy, Pilot William J. Powell formed the Bessie Coleman Aero Club, and in 1931, the club sponsored the first African American air show in the U.S. Powell encouraged African American youth to take control of their destinies and become pilots, aircraft designers, and business leaders in aviation.

Source: [Wikipedia](#)

Robbins, Illinois. Inspired to fly by Bessie Coleman, Robinson applied to Curtiss-Wright Aeronautical University in Chicago, but was denied because of his race. He got a job there as a janitor and learned how to fly by eavesdropping on classes. He and a friend, Cornelius R. Coffey, were finally allowed to take segregated night classes. After graduation, they taught other African Americans to fly. Robinson founded the Challenger Air Pilots Association, Chicago's first African American flying club.

Sources: [Robbins Illinois History Museum](#); [Chicago Tribune](#)



WILLA B. BROWN: "Aviatrix," "Activist"

Willa Brown was the first African American woman to earn a pilot license (1938) and a commercial license (1939) in the U.S. Brown served as president of the National Airmen's Association of America (NAAA). She successfully lobbied for federal funds in 1939 to support the NAAA pilot training program. Located in Chicago, this was the first privately-run training school for black pilots in the country. Her students included several future Tuskegee Airmen.

Sources: [National Air and Space Museum](#); [Smithsonian Institution](#)



JANET HARMON BRAGG: "That little plane...would talk to you."

In 1933, Janet Harmon Bragg, a nurse from Chicago, enrolled at Curtiss-Wright Aeronautical University, where she was the only woman in an aircraft mechanics class of 24 black men. Working various jobs, she saved up enough money to buy a plane for \$500.

"That little plane...It just seemed like you could talk to it, or it would talk to you. You merge right into the plane, it's the feeling you get. I knew that little old plane was doing everything for me." said Bragg. (From the oral history interview with the National Air and Space Museum, 1989.)

Source: [Smithsonian Insider](#)

The Tuskegee Airmen: "Red Tails"

The Tuskegee Airmen were among the first African Americans to desegregate the military during World War II. Renown for their fearless



fighter pilots, the group also included navigators, bombardiers, mechanics, instructors, crew chiefs, nurses, cooks, and other support personnel. At the time, all black military pilots, 992 in all, were educated at Tuskegee Institute and received their flight training at Griel Field, Kennedy Field, Moton Field, Shorter Field, and the Tuskegee Army Air Fields. On March 29, 2007, the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award presented by the U.S. Congress, was presented to the

Tuskegee Airmen for their service during World War II.

Sources:

Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture; Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum



In 1943, **Luke J. Weathers, Jr.** entered the Army and attended the flight training program at Tuskegee University. As a Tuskegee Airman, Captain Weathers flew P-51 and P-39 fighters during World War II. He was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross and later worked for the Phillip Morris Company and the Royal Crown Company. The first African American Air Traffic Controller, Captain Weathers opened a flight school and provided vocational education to veterans.

Source: CAF RISE ABOVE

Little known Black history fact: Tuskegee Airmen included women!



SERGEANT AMELIA JONES (1919-2015) enlisted in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps at the Kentucky-based Hunter Army Airfield in 1943. She worked for two years during World War II in the 99th Pursuit Squadron under Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, commander of the Tuskegee Airmen. She was honored for her service in 2014.



MILDRED HEMMONS CARTER (1921-2011) earned her BA in business from Tuskegee when she was 19 years old. She learned to fly from head flight instructor Chief Anderson and graduated with the first class of the Civilian Pilot Training Program. She earned her private pilot's license in 1941. Carter could not train on more advanced military

Sources:

National Park Service; CAF RISE ABOVE

airplanes due to her race and gender, but she was integral to the success of the Tuskegee program. She bulldozed the trees off the airstrip, performed administrative duties, and even rigged parachutes.

Source: National Park Service



"The Tuskegee Airmen: Oral Histories" Collection of The National WWII Museum.



MARLON DEWITT GREEN (1929-2009) was an African American pilot whose landmark United States Supreme Court decision in 1963 helped dismantle racial discrimination in the American passenger airline industry. Although he was not immediately hired by an airline, the decision led to David E. Harris's hiring as the first African American pilot for a major airline (American Airlines) the following year. Green was subsequently hired by Continental Airlines, for whom he flew from 1965 to 1978.

Sources: Wikipedia; Medium

ROBERT HENRY LAWRENCE, JR. (1935-1967) graduated from Bradley University at age 20 with a chemistry degree. He would go on to serve as an Air Force officer and skilled pilot, logging 2,500 hours and flying in 2,000 jets.

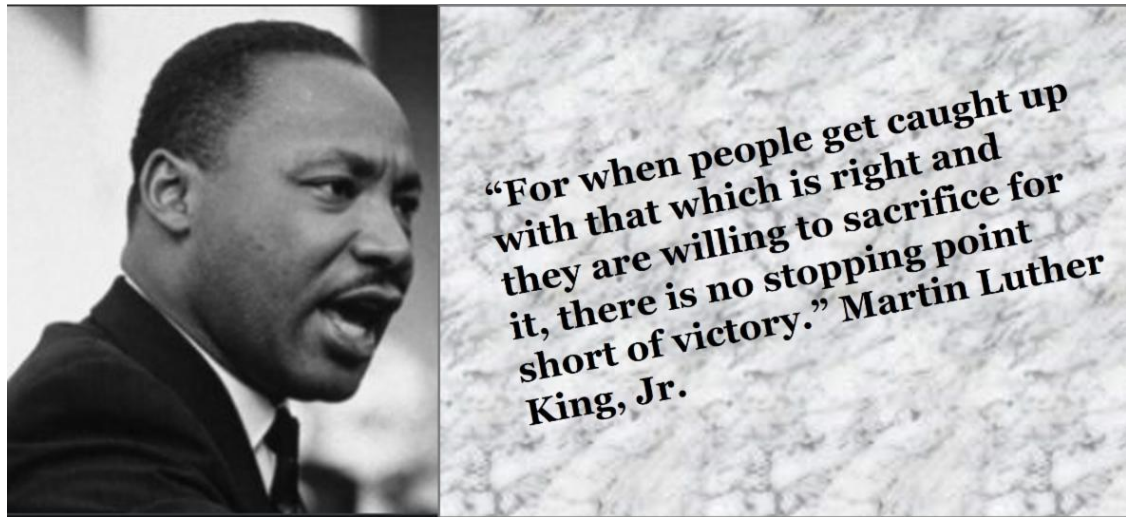
In 1965, he earned his Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Ohio State University, and two years later, was chosen by the Air Force to take part in the Manned Orbiting Laboratory (MOL) program, a clandestine



space mission that spied on Cold War adversaries. As a member of MOL, Lawrence became the first black astronaut selected to a national space program and the only member with a doctorate.

Lawrence helped to develop the Space Shuttle and most likely would have been part of the group who subsequently flew on some of the early missions. Unfortunately, on December 8, 1967, he was killed as a backseat passenger when an F-104 Starfighter supersonic jet crashed.

Sources: [Wikipedia](#); [NASA](#)



Scholarship, Internship Available!



Chicago's STEM Signing Day is Back!
Scholarship application open NOW through February 4, 2022.

If you are a CPS high school senior pursuing a two- or four-year post-secondary STEM program, you can apply for the opportunity to be recognized at this year's STEM Signing Day ceremony with friends, family, elected officials, and community leaders! Honorees will receive a scholarship and the opportunity to be mentored by a leader in their chosen field.

There are no GPA requirements, and the application can be completed in minutes. Applications are due by February 4, 2022. For more information and to apply, visit [HERE](#).

UChicago Youth Internship Program: Virtual Information Session Registration

The Youth Internship Program is a six-week, paid summer employment opportunity at the University of Chicago. This internship will provide meaningful, in-person work experience to local high school students. The Summer 2022 UChicago Youth Internship Program will host in-person interns at the University of Chicago's Hyde Park campus and at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab) in Batavia, Illinois. Interns will also participate in weekly professional development workshops, work with a mentor, and socialize with other interns in the program.

In Memory of Charles McGee, Tuskegee Airman



AeroStar is saddened to announce the passing of Brigadier General Charles McGee at the age of 102. A Tuskegee Airman, McGee flew 409 fighter combat missions over three wars. We are grateful for his tremendous service and offer our sincerest condolences to his family and friends.

Photo: [The National WWII Museum](#)

Save the Date!



Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 26, 2022, when AeroStar will host the AeroSTEM Expo and Propel Gala at the Illinois Institute of Technology. Watch this space for details!



BREAKING NEWS Registration Now Open for AeroStar's Spring Program! (To register, click [HERE!](#))



Are you serious about pursuing an aviation or aerospace career? Want to improve your STEM knowledge? Registration for AeroStar's Spring Program is officially open, so sign up for classes today. Safety protocols permitting, our Spring Program will include in-person Saturday sessions and exciting field trips!

5th-8th Grade AeroStar Aviation Exploration, register [HERE](#). ➔

9th-12th Grade AeroStar Advanced Aviation Exploration, register [HERE](#). ➔



IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES

WEEKLY GIVEAWAYS

**FIELD TRIPS TO THE:
ADLER PLANETARIUM
AAI AEROSTEM EXPO
BLACK CREATIVITY EXPO**

**BE ENTERED INTO A
DRAWING TO WIN A
LEGO SPACE SET**

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TO REGISTER
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AAIAEROVERSE.COM**



MISSION TO SPACE

Join us for a journey into space led by NASA and LEGO Education in preparation for the Artemis 1 Mission launch.

GRADES: 5TH - 12TH

WHEN: Every Saturday
February 5 - April 30, 2022

WHERE: Olive Harvey College
TDL Center
10001 S Woodlawn Ave
Chicago, IL 60628

TIME: 1:00 - 3:00 PM

COST: FREE



**Aviation Maintenance Class for
High School Juniors and Seniors**



AVIATION MAINTENANCE

at Olive-Harvey College

ATTENTION: CLASS OF 2023

Get ahead by earning college credit for **FREE** through City Colleges.

What Are the Benefits?

- You can earn college credit while still in high school, without paying college tuition. This means you save both time and money on the cost of a college degree.
- Free Books, Free Classes at City Colleges, and Free Transportation while in high school. You can make over \$50,000 a year after high school graduation.

Qualifications for Aviation Maintenance:

- Must have a 2.5 GPA; be a HS Junior; 90% Attendance rate
- Self-motivated (self-starter)

Responsibilities of Aviation Maintenance:

- Accomplishes aircraft lubrications and cleaning aircraft structures and components
- Opening aircraft access panels for inspection and or maintenance
- Applying corrosion preventative compound to aircraft structures
- Closing aircraft access panels areas following maintenance inspection after receiving the appropriate clearance to close per AAR and customer procedures.

How to Enroll:

STEP 1. Apply to www.ccc.edu/apply

Select: Pursue a limited amount of courses as a visiting student, personal interest, or as a dual enrollment/credit student.

STEP 2. Contact Holly Washington (Thrash), M.ED. at 773.291.6478 or hthrash@ccc.edu



APPLY TODAY!
ccc.edu/earlycollege

AVIATION MAINTENANCE PATHWAY

*Basic Certificate
Aviation Maintenance*

4 COURSES | 20 CREDITS

The program will meet in-person with scheduled remote days and field trips

AVIATION 101 - T/R

January 18, 2022

Lec: 3:00pm-4:10pm

Lab: 4:11pm-7:05pm

SPRING '22

- Math and General Physics
- Tools, Surfaces, and Corrosion

FALL '22

- Maintenance, Operations, and Records

SPRING '23

- Basic Electricity

**JOB OUTLOOK
IN AVIATION
MAINTENANCE**
Scan the QR code
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

Dr. King's Final Flight



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. arrived in Memphis, Tennessee, on the morning of April 3, 1968, on Eastern Airlines Flight 381. Later that day he delivered his "I've Been to the Mountaintop" sermon at Mason Temple Church of God in Christ. On April 4, the next day, as King stood on a second-floor balcony at the Lorraine Motel in Downtown Memphis, he was assassinated by James Earl Ray.

Source: [Memphis International Airport](#)

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