



Welcome to AeroStar News!

Full Throttle - Springing Forward



Dear AeroStar Family and Friends,

Just as shoots thrust through the soil finding sunlight, so do many of the seeds that were sown by our forebears in hopes of a more diverse and inclusive culture. Despite every obstacle, we continue to propel forward, in the face of resistance, opposition and even complacency.

One thing that I LOVE about being a double minority (African American and Female) is that expectations and presumptions about me at first glance are, let's say, subpar. So, when I'm actually able to hold an intelligent conversation, have similar (sometimes identical) interests and a background that demonstrates a fair amount of success, the word most used is...

"impressive." Now, I used to get a bit perturbed when this happened, but I realized I took for granted the springing forth of a new root, a blade of grass or luxurious colorful flowers from the muck and mire. I never really took into account the journey that seed of greatness had to take to not only survive above ground, but thrive!

There's a point during takeoff, after inspecting the plane during pre-flight, after doing all of your run-up checklists, after turning the keys and getting the engine pumped, primed and spinning... you give a little power to get the aircraft taxiing toward the runway. Meandering through the twists and turns, you pivot onto that runway centerline with precision, nothing but opportunity and open skies ahead. That's when you go full throttle. It's the moment of decision to give it all you got because every ounce will be necessary to overcome the forces of resistance! On takeoff, powering all the way up is my absolute favorite part of the flight experience.

In this newsletter, you will hear about how opportunity awaits just on the other side of a decision to go ALL IN! To go full throttle. My friends and mentee, who have overcome all odds, spring forward into the lives they imagined for themselves. I'm honored to share these stories as well as a host of opportunities and inspiration for our AeroStars! Share the full-throttle opportunities in this newsletter and if one is for you... GO FULL THROTTLE. Open skies await you!

Support Underserved Youth This Year!

AeroStar is gearing up for Summer Programs with a variety of incredible experiences for more than 200 students—including real-world design challenges, discovery flights, the

Chicago Air and Water Show, and a trip to the world's largest air show in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Every dollar you donate to our mission will help us train incredibly deserving students, K-Career, who are passionate about pursuing their dream jobs in the industry.

Donate cash, in-kind services, and sponsorships [HERE](#). Collaborate and volunteer (click [HERE](#) to volunteer). Support AeroStar in any way you can! Please contact me today at Tholmes@aerostarcorp.com.

Giving Wings to Dreams!

Tammera L. Holmes
President & CEO, AeroStar Consulting Corporation
Founder & CEO, AeroStar Avion Institute NFP

#BoeingInspires #BoeingPartner #AeroStarAvion #WingstoDreams, #BAEDay

Upcoming Events

AeroStar's Spring Programs are closing to get ready for the Summer! The event will take place on Saturday, April 30 from 12:30 - 3:00 PM at Olive Harvey College. Please come celebrate this occasion with us. We have lots of fun activities planned. You don't want to miss it!



Student Presentations

Rocket Launch

LEGO Set Giveaways

More Fun Activities

**3...2...1...
Blast Off!**



Join Us For Takeoff

We are celebrating the closing of our Spring 2022 Programs! Come hear from our AeroStars as they share all about what they have learned from the LEGO & NASA Build To Launch Series in preparation for the Artemis 1 Mission Launch. Participate in a rocket launch and other fun activities.

WHEN: Saturday
April 30, 2022

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

TIME: 12:30 – 3:00 PM

We Hope to See You There!

On June 11 at 12:00 pm, the Chicago DODO chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Inc. will be hosting its annual aviation salute to pioneer colorful women, celebrating the legendary Bessie Coleman along with Janet Harmon Bragg and Willa Brown. The Chicago Crossroads Corvette club will also be present. This event is FREE, and the chapter will be hosting young eagles flights (free airplane rides) for ages 8 to 17 years old.

Aviation's Salute To Pioneer Colorful Women



Bessie Coleman

Willa Brown

Janet Harmon Bragg

Bessie Coleman Willa Brown Janet Harmon Bragg

1. Morning EAA Young Eagles Rally
2. **Sandra Campbell's**
One Woman Bessie Coleman Performance
3. Featuring - 
Chicago Crossroads Corvette Club
Crossroads Foundation, NFP
4. American Legion Food Truck On Site

Date: June 11, 2022 at 12:00 Noon

Location: Bult Field (C56)

28261 S. Kedzie Monee, IL.



AeroSTEM Recap

Thank you for attending our 2022 AeroSTEM Expo! We hope you had as much fun as we did!

The AeroSTEM Expo was an incredible event used to expose students and parents to hands-on aviation-related activities, learn about industry careers, hear from colleges and universities regarding post-secondary programs, and meet and receive mentoring from professionals within the aviation and space industries. It was a phenomenal experience!



Thank you to our valued partners. It was an exciting and memorable experience for everyone who attended. This was in no small part due to the engaging vendors and exhibitors, who could answer questions, disseminate, and perform informative demonstrations. We look forward to teaming up with you again and to your continued involvement in supporting programs for students grades K-12 interested in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).



Make sure to visit our [website](#) and follow us on social media to remain updated on more fun events and classes from AeroStar Avion Institute! We appreciate your time and support.



2022 AeroSTEM Expo Winner!!!

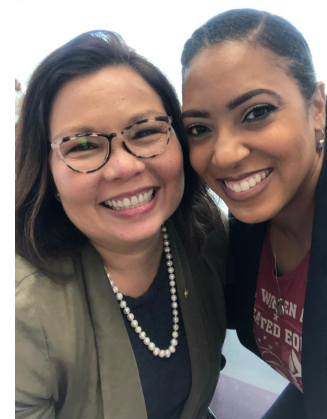
The winner of our \$25 Amazon Gift Card was Oyinkansola Sanusi. Thank you and everyone else for attending our 2022 AeroSTEM Expo and for taking the time to fill out the post-survey. The winner will receive a link via email.

Overcoming Obstacles to Inspire and Fly

Senator Tammy Duckworth

Tammy Duckworth was born in Bangkok, Thailand before moving to Hawaii when she was 16. She joined the National Guard as a helicopter pilot, was called to active duty, and lost her legs in combat. She received a Purple Heart on her return and jumped into the political sphere without hesitation. There was work to be done. Her political career has included the House of Representatives, Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and now, the U.S. Senate. She is an advocate for veterans, new mothers, and working-class families. Being in a wheelchair has not changed her fight, only strengthened it. Duckworth's perseverance shines in her political achievements, completion of four marathons, and advocacy for diverse groups of people.

(Sources: [Tammy Duckworth](#) and [National Women's History Museum](#))



Marcellus Freeman

Marcellus Freeman is a Second-In-Command pilot for a Hawker 900XP.



Born in Atlanta, he grew up in Chicago and was tremendously interested in being a pilot. After a fruitless search for aviation programs, as a rising high school freshman, he found AeroStar Avion Institute. Following this experience, he went to college for Aviation Science. He knew the low statistics on completion rates for black men, which only pushed him harder to succeed. Tuskegee NEXT was another step on his aviation career path. He struggled through this program with grit and determination. Any failure or misstep only made him more determined to persevere. He has been in mentoring with AeroStar for the past 10 years. On top of this, his technological STEM background provided him with ample opportunities to reach his goals.



Nia Gilliam-Wordlaw

Nia Gilliam-Wordlaw is a United Airlines pilot and co-founder of "Sisters of the Skies," an organization to mentor and inspire young women of color with a passion for aviation. She is fighting against the cost and obstacles women of color experience in becoming pilots. Despite the current composition, her fight demands more diversity in aviation.



(Source: CBS News)



Jacqueline Camacho-Ruiz

Jacqueline Camacho-Ruiz was born a miracle in Mexico City, the only girl in her family. At 14, she moved to the United States and learned English. At 16, she learned German. At 23, she became an entrepreneur. At 21 and 26, she battled cancer. By 37, she was a millionaire. Her goal has been simply to help others achieve their dreams. She has survived poverty, stigmas, and cancer, and yet, has started two businesses, two nonprofits, and published 27 books. "Without perseverance," she says, "I would not be here." Every day, she works as a pilot, a mom, and an entrepreneur. She

celebrates her Latina identity and encourages others like her. With her global brand, *Latinas in Aviation*, and anthology, *Today's Inspired Latina*, she champions diversity and the importance of culture in work and life.

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Did You Know...?



On this month in 1981, NASA launched the first reusable manned space shuttle, Columbia. John Young and Bob Crippen were the two-person team aboard the spacecraft. Their test mission was completed safely, and the shuttle was used multiple times following this one.

(Source: [Space](#))

(Image Source: [Ars Technica](#))

In the News!

On March 31, 2022, NBC 5 Chicago featured AeroStar's founder, Tamera L. Holmes, and our important mission in honor of last month's celebration of Women's History. We are proud to share our passion and dedication to inspire youth toward aviation, particularly those who are female, minority, underprivileged and at-risk. Aviation needs more diversity, and



AeroStar Avion Institute works hard to make it happen! Check out the full video [HERE](#).

(Source: [NBC 5 Chicago](#))



Texas Southern University has become the first historically black college and university (HBCU) to partner with Southwest Airlines Destination 225° pilot recruitment program. This will give more opportunities to underrepresented minorities to become pilots. It will build greater diversity in the skies while allowing future pilots to know the role is open and attainable for them. Director of Aviation at the university, Dr. Terence H. Fontaine, announced, "Today, our partners at Southwest Airlines delivered news that our students have a new place to land."

(Source: [TSU](#))

AeroStar's Spring Program — *A Journey to Space!*



During our Spring Program lift-off at Olive-Harvey College, AeroStar students learned about the Artemis 1 Mission to the Moon! This program season, our students are engaging in the Build To Launch Series curriculum created by LEGO Education and NASA as the Artemis 1 Mission prepares for launch this month! We are excited students will be joining us for this journey and will witness history in the making as the Artemis program will land the first person of color—and the first woman—on the moon!

After School Matters Spring Program

If you are a CPS high school student,

AFTER SCHOOL matters®

Air Force Academy

For more information
please contact
Ms. Logan
sjlogan1@cps.edu



www.afterschoolmatters.org

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 [After School Matters](#)

United Summer Associate Program (USA) is looking for excited and dedicated individuals to join their



team! Participants will gain skills in customer service, corporate experiences, aviation-related departments/functions, mentorship, and more. Applicants must be at least 18 years old. Members will work 32 hours per week at \$16/hour. The program will be ten weeks long, starting in early June. Please submit a resume to laurie.stepanski@united.com with the subject: "USA Program Applicant from [nonprofit] – [name]".

Application is due by April 29, 2022.
Apply [HERE](#).

Student Internship Opportunities

The **Chicago Transit Authority** (CTA), in collaboration with the City of Chicago's One Summer Chicago (OSC) Program, will provide 200 high school students with a seven-week paid internship. Interns will participate in a robust hybrid experience that includes an innovative approach to CTA's hallmark program model of work experience, professional development, and mentorship from transportation industry leaders. Students will earn \$15/hour and free CTA transportation. Space is limited, so apply early!

Application is due by April 29, 2022.
Internship dates: June 27 - August 12, 2022.
Apply [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 Tamera L. Holmes join forces to show girls and boys how to face their fears!

Tamera L. Holmes Teaches Violet

Violet Takes Flight



By: Bernette Scott
Illustrated By: Michelle Valente



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

Bessie Coleman, aviation pioneer and the first Black woman and Native American to earn a pilot's license, will be featured on the back of U.S. quarters, available in 2023! To find out more about past and future women to be honored by the American Women Quarters Program, click [HERE](#).



(Image Source from [biography.com](https://www.biography.com))
(Source: [NPR](#))

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