



## Welcome to AeroStar News!

### Elevated



When flight planning, there's one thing a pilot must know prior to beginning her journey... that's the elevation. The elevation is the height of the airport runway above sea level (ASL), and it is critical in determining your altitude. Let me explain... in Denver, the airport's elevation is 5,279 feet ASL, while in Chicago, it's only 597. This means that in Denver, your starting point upon takeoff is already over 4,500 feet above Chicago!!! Why is this critical? Because traveling long distances, even at high altitudes, can cause you to unknowingly crash into the side of a mountain. This is a real thing, officially known as Controlled Flight Into Terrain (CFIT.) The only way to avoid this is to constantly monitor the ground elevation while simultaneously adjusting your altitude to a significant distance above the highest terrain or obstacles on your flight path. But guess what? The time to map

this out is BEFORE you take flight, not while you're in the air.

As land-based mammals, we humans often forget that the perceived solid ground beneath us, is constantly moving, changing, rising and falling as we traverse the globe to reach our destination. In life's journey, we often forget that the foundation on which we have built our families, careers, friendships and faith will often shift, crumble, rise and fall; leaving us headed for disaster.

The nation continued to reel this month with the crushing devastation of the Uvalde mass shooting, the uncovering of the fragility of our US government with the January 6th hearings and then the unthinkable, a head on collision with a pillar of progress ending 50 years of choice for women's rights. The elevation is in fact changing in this journey, and the ground is rising and falling beneath us. Just when we thought our altitude was high enough and that we had ascended....the reality sets in. How low are we? How high are the obstructions on our flight path to "the American dream?" How many more obstructions are there ahead?



In hearing Dr. Mae Jemison speak at the Women in Aviation breakfast for the Airport Minority Advisory Council conference, she remarked, “From space, the Earth is gorgeous. It really makes me think about how much better we could be if we saw each other simply as ‘Earthlings.’ Because out there (in space) you realize we are all connected on this journey. And we are an infinitely small part of the vast universe.” Talk about elevation? In space, there is no ground, no sea, or altitude; just distance and time. In that environment, opportunities are endless.

In this issue, we celebrate the milestones of AeroStars who have been elevated and are ascending to new heights. We celebrate Juneteenth and Pride. We celebrate our 2022 graduates, and we provide resources for our AeroStar Families that will aid their ability to determine their elevation, make adjustment and ascend higher! In this newsletter, you will also find information about AAI highlights, events and summer schedule.



### Support Underserved Youth This Summer!

Summer programs begin on July 5<sup>th</sup>!!! Register your AeroStar TODAY! We will host 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. **We are still looking for volunteers!**

**Donate cash, in-kind services, and sponsorships [HERE](#). Collaborate and volunteer (click [HERE](#) to volunteer). Support AeroStar and the future of aviation. Please contact me today at [Tholmes@aerostarcorp.com](mailto:Tholmes@aerostarcorp.com) for branded sponsorship opportunities.**

Thank you for Giving Wings to Dreams!

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

#BoeingInspires #BoeingPartner #AeroStarAvion #WingstoDreams

## AeroStar Event Highlights

## Chicago Department of Aviation & AMAC celebrates Juneteenth with Project LIFT

On June, 2022, AeroStars learned all things aviation at the 2022 Project LIFT, located at Chicago Midway International Airport! Project LIFT (Leaders Inspiring Future Talent) is a program of the Airport Minority Advisory Council (AMAC) Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing minorities and women pursuing careers in the aviation industry.

Students were exposed to potential aviation/aerospace-related industry careers, educational paths, networking and scholarship opportunities with professional mentors. The Project LIFT event phenomenally inspired the next generation of aviation and aerospace professionals to pursue the careers of their dreams!

Special thank you to Commissioner Jamie Rhee, Rena Neely and the Chicago Department of Aviation, and the Airport Minority Advisory Council for the opportunity! Thank you to Team AeroStar for your leadership. and support!



## Indiana Youth Explore Aviation with STARBASE and AeroStar

Team AeroStar facilitated a day of fun and activities at the 2022 STARBASE Summer Aviation Camp in Griffith, IN! The students were inspired by words from our Founder & CEO Tamera L. Holmes.

STARBASE is a US Department of Defense youth aviation immersion initiative. Special thanks to their Executive Director Ava R. Marshall-Ligon for inviting us! Such a blast!





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## Tuskegee Airmen Salute Black Women Pioneers in Aviation

On June 11, 2022, AeroStars celebrated Aviation's Salute to Pioneer Colorful Women with the Chicago DODO chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Inc. Held annually, the event recognized such greats as Bessie Coleman, Janet Harmon Bragg, and Willa Brown. Participants had a blast learning new things and taking off to the sky with free airplane rides!



## Upcoming Events

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The 2022 Chicago ACE Academy is being held on July 26 at Lewis University, open to children aged 13-18. The "Taste of ACE" endeavors to reboot the traditional features of the ACE Academy. Come to learn more about flying, air traffic control, drone piloting, meteorology, and more! Participants will have the chance to experience flying with free introductory flights. It will be an event you don't want to miss.



**AVIATION CAREERS EDUCATION  
"TASTE of ACE"**

**At:  
Lewis University  
Romeoville, Illinois**



**Activities:**

Orientation flights for each student in single engine aircraft  
Air Traffic Control, Aircraft Maintenance, Drone Piloting,  
Aviation Technicians, Meteorology AND MORE!

**When:**

**Tuesday, July 26, 2022**

**Sponsors:**

Lewis University  
Federal Aviation Administration  
Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated  
National Black Coalition of Federal Aviation Employee  
National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employee  
Professional Women Controllers

## **AeroStar PRIDE**

### **Sameea Osiomita**

Sameea Osiomita is a recent graduate of Lewis University at Romeoville with a Bachelor degree in Air Traffic Control Management. Her pronouns are she/her/hers, and she is a bisexual. She has a passion for teaching, cooking, and aviation. She is an entrepreneur and shea butter maker, and she is a part of the AeroStar team!

With a TEFL certification and a background in elementary education, Osiomita is a perfect fit for AeroStar instructor. She found a family in



AeroStar, a community dedicated to diversity and inclusion. A place where everyone feels included and equal. Instead of ignoring differences, AeroStar embraced them. She gravitated towards the opportunities and messages AeroStar was spreading: you can do more than what people tell you to do even if you don't see many people who look, act, or are like you where you want to go.

Being a part of the LGBTQ+ community has taught her to be true to herself despite other's opinions or influences. "I would say embracing myself," she says, "It does bring a certain level of confidence that you probably didn't know you had. You literally can't care what people think. It does take practice though. It's not that easy, but it has taught me that. It's really freeing."

Osiomita has big plans on the horizon. She is currently working on a Master in General Aviation. She eventually wants to open her own elementary school and become a foster mother, goals that she has already taken steps to complete by following her own blueprints.

[Instagram](#)



### **Mercedes Oliver**

Mercedes Oliver was born and raised in South Side, Chicago. She is a self-described masculine presenting lesbian and an aviation A&P Mechanic. Having always liked school, she pursued higher education with determination, but her journey did not come without its challenges. Oliver was outed her freshman year of high school. She dealt with homophobia, was made to feel different. It was a sad time in her life, yet she carved her own way. Despite a lack of exposure and introduction, Oliver found aviation.

She attended Moraine Valley Community College for electronic engineering. Her



interests moved from this to aeronautical engineering and finally, through her own exploration and curiosity, she transferred to Lewis University to study aviation maintenance. There, she discovered OBAP, the Organization of Black Aeospace Professionals. At an aviation event, AeroStar and OBAP collided, and Oliver was introduced to the organization. In no time at all, Oliver found a position and mentorship at AeroStar Avion Institute. She is an AeroStar instructor! She learned networking and professionalism. She learned that she was capable of teaching, and that she didn't have to wait to see change, to give back. "I thought," she said, "that I had to wait until I had graduated or was working in my career and making some money to give back, but Mrs. Holmes showed me that I could give back in the right now that I was in."

Oliver promotes the importance of introducing youth to new things, letting them know they can be whatever they really want to be. Her dreams involve learning how to fly helicopters and getting certified on her drone license, and she is well on her way.

[Instagram](#)



## Congratulations 2022 Graduates!

Congratulations to all the graduates of the 2022 school year from elementary, middle, and high school to undergraduate and graduate programs! You did it! Your next steps are up to you. Soar high!

(Image Source: [Unsplash](#))



### Darielle Kennedy

Darielle was an AeroStar student beginning in summer of 2015 as a freshman at Young Women's Leadership Charter School. She participated in the AeroStar's Aviation Exploration Apprenticeship Program



through After School Matters for three years and subsequently became the administrative assistant to Mrs. Holmes during her summer breaks from college.

Darielle's troubled early home life with poverty, alcoholism and abuse made her grow up way too soon. Her father has been in jail since she was young. Her two younger siblings have been her motivation to succeed. She received a full POSSE Scholarship to Oberlin in Ohio. She served in student government for all four years and was the student body president of her graduating class!



Darielle graduated from Oberlin College Class of '22 with a BA in Comparative American Studies with a concentration in Identity and Diversity and a minor in Law and Society.

"Mrs. Holmes and the AeroStar program made me believe that anything is possible for Black women in S.T.E.M and business. Mrs. Holmes was integral in cultivating me into a leader and a professional through her ability to lead with vulnerability, resilience, faith and strength."

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### Jorge Toledo

We're happy to announce another AeroStar alumni graduate. 2022 graduate Jorge Toledo received his diploma from Air Force Academy High School. He attended the AeroStar program from 2018 to 2022. What he has learned and experiences so far will no doubt take him to new heights. Toledo will be an Engineering Major at University of Alabama in Huntsville.



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### Ashton Jones

Another proud graduate is Ashton Jones, who attended Homewood-Flossmoor High School. He completed his high school requirements in December, though he participated in the graduation ceremony on May 29. Throughout his high school career,



he maintained A or B honor status with a consistent 3.6 or higher GPA. Ashton never had a desire to attend traditional college. While in high school he worked at Best Buy. When they discovered he was graduating early, his manager asked if he would be interested in applying for their IT Apprentice Travel team. He accepted the offer and has traveled to Reno-Nevada, Champaign-IL, and Decatur-IL. He's currently in Louisville-Kentucky. In July, he'll be heading to California, the next step on his flight path.

## In the News



Chris Bridges, otherwise known as Ludacris, is a 2022 graduate. On May 4, 2022, he earned an honorary degree from Georgia State University in Music Management. He left the university before finishing his degree to pursue his music career, and with all that he has learned, has earned a degree that he justly deserves.

(Source: [LinkedIn](#); [Variety](#))  
(Image Source: [TMZ](#))



The NGPA, National Gay Pilots Association, "is the largest organization of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender pilots, aviation professionals, and enthusiasts from around the world." The organization kicked off PRIDE month by providing \$300,000 of scholarships. This marks \$1.2 million donated since 1998. Scholarships are awarded to any and all people regardless of their identity. Applications close July 31, 2022, so [apply now](#).

(Source: [The Journal](#); [NGPA](#))  
(Image Source: [Vaughn College](#))

## Summer Programs

# READY TO ROCK IT?

## AeroStar Summer Programs

**GRADES:** 5TH - 12TH

**WHEN:** JULY 5TH -  
AUGUST 11TH ✨

**COST:** FREE!!

**TIME:** 1:00PM - 3:00PM

**WHERE:** OLIVE-HARVEY  
COLLEGE  
10001 S. WOODLAWN  
AVENUE

The Summer program starts soon! It will run from July 5th - Aug 11th from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. We will be exploring topics such as drones and rocketry. Mark your calendars for upcoming events like National Aviation Day on August 19 and the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) Camp. This summer will be full of exciting activities to do with AeroStar!

## Aviation Job Opportunities

AeroStar is seeking new and dedicated people to join our team. Your support will help the AeroStar Avion Institute train and prepare students to pursue the aviation and aerospace careers of their dreams!

**AeroStar Aviation Instructor**  
Part-Time

The primary responsibility of a Program Instructor is to facilitate AeroStar curriculum online (AeroVerse) or in a classroom environment for students ages K through 12th. As an AeroStar Instructor, you will engage in fun aviation, aerospace, and STEM-focused programs and activities.

Submit resume and cover letter to [HR@avioninstitute.org](mailto:HR@avioninstitute.org); CC: [tholmes@aerostarcorp.com](mailto:tholmes@aerostarcorp.com); Subject Line: Program Instructor.

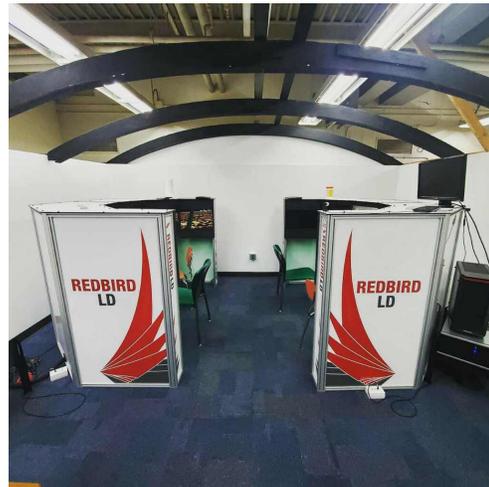
### **Aviation Flight Program Instructor**

Full-Time  
Gary, IN

The Aviation Instructor for the Gary Area Career Center will be the primary instructor for students to receive FAA certified level training provided they successfully complete the program. The instructor accomplishes this by providing students with a program of study that teaches required program skills, develops employability skills, and reinforces academic skills through the use of rigorous curricula. The Instructor will also handle all responsibilities associated with the High Tech Flight Simulator Laboratory, including program coordination, school-wide integration/collaboration, and special events/workshops/classes. The instructor will also handle coordination of flight simulator hardware and software routine maintenance, repairs, and updates. Apply [HERE](#).

#### **QUALIFICATIONS**

- CFI or CFII
- Be 18 years of age or older.
- Hold either a commercial pilot certificate or airline transport pilot certificate and an instrument rating.
- Have logged at least 250 hours of flight time.
- Hold a valid FAA 3rd Class Medical Certificate (or higher)
- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university AND 2,000+ hours of department-approved, aviation-related work experience, OR; No degree and 8,000 hours of department-approved, aviation-related work experience
- Complete Work-based learning Instructor requirements as directed by Indiana Department of Education: for selected candidate, certificate will be applied for by Gary Community Schools



Southwest is excited to offer Ramp Agent roles in cities around the country, especially for

high school students or graduates looking for real-world experience. Ramp Agents will direct planes on the ground, handle cargo/baggage, and ensure our ground operations run smoothly. Starting pay begins at \$17/hr. Apply [HERE](#). To explore more Southwest positions, start [HERE](#).

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Apply to #BeATC! From June 24 - 27, you can apply for entry level FAA air traffic control positions. No day is the same, you'll be given responsibility, growth opportunity, and much more! Learn about requirements and the job at [www.faa.gov/be-atc](http://www.faa.gov/be-atc).

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## Internships

Calling high school and college-level students, both undergraduate and graduate, applications are open for NASA Fall internships! Gain real-world experience in the aerospace field. There are four options to choose from (Intern, Pathways Intern, International Intern, and Fellow). Pick the one that's right for you. Apply [HERE](#) by July 11, 2022.



APPLICATIONS OPEN

## FALL INTERNSHIPS

apply by **JULY 11TH**

at [intern.nasa.gov](http://intern.nasa.gov)



### Did You Know...?



**LifeLine Pilots** is a critical service that offers free air transportation for medical, humanitarian and disaster relief flights. Founded in 1981, their vision is, "A world where every person has equal access to transportation for healthcare and humanitarian needs." If you or someone you know could benefit from their services, visit [their website](#) to find out more. If you're a pilot who wants to volunteer, apply [here](#).

(Source + Image: [LifeLine Pilots](#))

### Internet Service Credit



The **Federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)** provides eligible low-income households a credit up to \$30 a month toward the cost of Internet service (\$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands). Participants in the program can apply the ACP credit toward the cost of participating plans from a variety of Internet service providers, including Comcast, as well as mobile services. Households that choose plans that cost \$30/month or less will essentially receive their service for free.

More than 10 million Americans have already signed up for the ACP. Learn more about eligibility, how to apply and available plans at [www.xfinity.com/acp](http://www.xfinity.com/acp).

## ON THE RADAR

June is PRIDE Month celebrating self acceptance and love in the LGBTQIA+ community and everywhere we live and exist. We celebrate all of the people and organizations that accept, include, and promote this community and the individuals themselves who have shaped STEM, aviation, and aerospace.



Today, AeroStar celebrates the 156th anniversary of Juneteenth. Juneteenth is celebrated on June 19 to commemorate the true date of freedom of all the slaves in the United States, the days the last slaves were freed. Two years after the Emancipation

Proclamation, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers arrived in Texas with news that the Civil War was over and slavery was ended. We honor it today to celebrate and remember freedom, recognize history at face value, and continue to work for equality. It is a reminder that "this is a country where everyone deserves the same freedom and opportunity to fulfill their dreams" (Barack Obama).



(Source: [Juneteenth](#))

## 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

# Violet Takes Flight



By Bennett Scott  
Illustrated By Michelle Valente



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

## CREDITS



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