



Welcome to AeroStar News!

Catching Wind



Greetings AeroStar Friends and Family,

This month was full of unexpected surprises, unique challenges and overwhelming excitement. It was also met with mourning, grief and uncertainty. As the world continues to turn on its axis, steady, consistent and cyclic, we continue to experience the fluctuating highs and lows of the human experience. We are grieving with the families of Uvalde, Texas during the aftermath of the most horrific mass shooting at an elementary school. Words cannot express the depth of our condolences and, as one who has dedicated my life's work to serving youth, my personal feelings of heartache. We move forward knowing and believing that the best is on the flight path ahead of us. We are catching wind to carry us beyond our wildest expectations. We thank you

for always taking this journey alongside us and our AeroStars, being the wingmen to our Mavericks.

In this issue, we celebrate Asian Pacific Awareness Month with my extraordinary friend and fellow CEO, Agatha Kessler, we celebrate the future of aviation through the lens of non-traditional pathways, we honor those who have served in uniform, and we experience nostalgia with the reboot of "TOP GUN- MAVERICK!" We hope you all had a wonderful May, and we look forward to seeing you UP and about this Summer!

Support Underserved Youth This Year!

Summer programs begin on July 5th!!! 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 and we are HIRING!***

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,

Upcoming Events

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.



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

Spotlights: Nontraditional Pathways to Aviation



Agatha Kessler

Agatha Kessler fell in love with aviation before she was born. Hailing from Hong Kong, a city boasting a population of 7.4 million people, the "only way to freedom was to look up." Kessler was always inspired by anything with wings, so when she discovered airplanes, she was hooked. Her father was an entrepreneur, who fled Communism in China. He gave up everything to go to Hong Kong for freedom. He believed in equality for his children despite living in a society that valued boys over girls. He taught her that business was not just about making money. It was about sticking it out, persevering, and doing it for the people you love. Now as a businesswoman, her motivations stem from all the sacrifices people like her dad have made so that she can be where she is today.



It took Kessler many twists and turns before she found her career in aviation. Her mentors were White American men who embraced diversity: diversity of ideas. She didn't notice she was different or unequal. They pushed her because they saw something in her and were willing to help cultivate it. Her career began in management consultation and professorship. She did volunteer work for three years in the Caribbean and Africa. She moved on to big-name companies like Hewlett Packard and Visa International to learn the international business.



At her current company, Fentress Architects, she moved through the ranks from COO to CEO to Chairman. Fentress Architects designs a fair amount of airports and control towers, a full-circle moment for Kessler who, as a young girl, was in love with airplanes.

She keeps moving forward, toward a future that is in her hands. She's working on her Ph.D. in aviation, and is chair of Aerial Futures, a multidisciplinary nonprofit organization to give voices to different parts of aviation, create opportunities for people to talk to each other, and fashion space for more relevant voices to be heard; in her words, "creating aviation tribes."



With hard work, mental discipline, and bravery, Kessler finally made it to where she wanted to be, and yet she won't stop there. Her journey goes on.

(Image Source: Google)



Henry Norris

Henry Norris is an aeronautical analyst working for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA). In his freshman year of college, he was introduced to aviation courses that pushed him toward the field. Through the FAA, he worked in a control tower for 10 weeks and received technical training in air traffic control at the FAA Academy. Unfortunately, he failed out and was sent home, yet he says, "I used that failure as fuel to the fire."

He did not allow this defeat to get his hopes down. He stayed in the field of aviation, working odd jobs, and gaining more experience. It only took him



eight months to return to a federal job, this time with the NGA. Norris thanks his village (his family, former athletic coaches, and friends) for helping him overcome negative influences that might have prevented him from getting to where he is today. His journey to aviation and experience with STEM was filled with the realization that they are both very broad. STEM has offered him a wide network of people interested in aviation, architecture, engineering, and more. He shares this network with those he mentors and speaks with, helping others rise up, being a part of the village for students like him: Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals (OBAP) and National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE).

There are multiple jobs that touch aviation without being the face of it. Aviation is more than pilots and more than air traffic controllers. It is a space in which to inspire and get things done.



Amber Woodburn-McNair

In her childhood, Amber Woodburn-McNair moved through three different states, from the East Coast to the West: Pennsylvania, California, and Florida. This was the beginning of her recognition of the vastness of the United States, excitement around travel, and the importance of transportation. Although, it took her a lot longer to find her way to aviation. Coming from a low-income family instilled a powerful need in her to become financially stable. She was comfortable in the classroom from a very young age, so college was her gateway. At UC Berkeley, she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering. She went on to eventually earn her Ph. D. Working now as an Assistant Professor of City and Regional Planning in the Knowlton School at Ohio State University, she describes how her education played a huge role in her journey to aviation and opening her eyes to possibilities. Despite the financial struggles she experienced, education became her pathway to aviation. Through mentorship and guidance, her own grit and determination, she worked towards new degrees and new job opportunities, traveled to new places and met new people. She didn't begin her career in aviation as a pilot, like so many do, yet she makes big waves in her contribution in a field that is still working on its diversity, adding more women and folks of color. When she looks at airports, she questions the human side, how it represents a culture, a community, a region, a state, a nation. "The legacy and the history of the patterns of exclusion in the workforce are atrocious." She says, "There's still a lot of work to be done to make it an inclusive environment for people from a variety of backgrounds."



Amira Collier

At 12 years old, Amira Collier had dreams of traveling. Her parents were educators and they nurtured her love of math. Model aircrafts, like the P-51 Mustang, intrigued her. As an AeroStar alumni, she was introduced to aviation through airport tours and introductory flights. It gave her great exposure to the field and now, she works as a senior engineer for Delta Airlines. After AeroStar, she went on to Tuskegee University, where she studied aerospace engineering. Through Tuskegee NEXT, she obtained her private pilot's license. She believes her current position comes from stepping outside of her comfort zone. She was able to overcome a fear of heights while working on a vehicle that is constantly in the air. At one time, she was the only African American engineer at airline headquarters. She is still an intersectional minority in aviation and encourages others seeking to join the ride to open themselves up to exposure to different things, willing to be a little uncomfortable as she was, and staying consistent despite rejection or missteps. "You think," she starts, "that if you want to travel or if you want to be in the industry, you're only going to be a pilot or a flight stewardess, but being an engineer for an airline shows me that there are many parts that go into making the customer happy to fly. It's so much more than just getting in the air and getting to your destination."



Cyrus Bracey

Cyrus Bracey has always been interested in aviation. He was a curious and hands-on child. "I love taking stuff apart." He says, "I was always trying to figure things out." This is what led him to electrical engineering. To achieve this dream and finish school, he served in the Air Force for four years as an avionics engineer. His leadership experiences in Eagle Scouts and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. contributed greatly to where he currently finds himself. For 20 odd years, he has been an electronic, product design engineer for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). He travels, moves radio sites, does and learns dynamic and interesting things. It took some time for him to come to this place, to enjoy his job, to thrive in it. "Find out what you enjoy doing," he urges, "and pursue it. Don't let anything deter you from it." The determination in this guidance is borne from the realization of his own goals; he made a life happen where he was happy doing the work he does every day. Presently, he is working on his private pilot's license yet again

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](#))

In the News

On Thursday, May 19, the CST-100 Starliner successfully launched! Lift off was at 6:54 p.m. ET, marking the official start of Orbital Flight Test-2. It's next destination will be docking in the International Space Station. To receive future updates on the Starliner, follow [@BoeingSpace on Twitter](#) and Boeing on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

(Source: Boeing)
(Image Source: Boeing/Joey Jetton)



On Friday, May 27, "Top Gun: Maverick," starring Tom Cruise, debuted in theaters, collecting \$124 million at the box office on its opening weekend. When calculated worldwide, that number soars to \$248 million. In the movie, you can witness Cruise performing real aerial stunts as pilot Pete "Maverick" Mitchell. Maverick trains a new group of aviators including cast members Miles Teller, Monica Barbaro and Glen Powell. For aviation lovers and fans of the original "Top Gun," which released in 1986, it is a must-see.

(Source: [Variety](#))





United Airlines + Chicago Department of Aviation Chicago Public Schools Career and Technical Education Day

AeroStar facilitated a soaring Aviation Career and Technical Education Day for CPS aviation students from Air Force Academy and Automotive Tech students from Curie High Schools. The CTE students visited Chicago O'Hare International Airport and toured behind the scenes of United Airlines operations. During the site visit, students learned about the airline industry, met with employees, observed work in progress and learned about career they had never knew existed.

The tour ended at the Aviation Administration Building where all of the Airport Executive Offices are located. The students were treated to lunch and a fireside chat Andrew Velasquez, First Deputy Commissioner, shared the story of his own career trajectory, personal experiences and beginnings growing up as a youth in Humboldt Park. AeroStar is honored to continue to serve Chicago and Gary area students with inspiring and enriching Work-Based Learning opportunities. A special thank you to Chicago Public Schools CTE Department, the City of Chicago Department of Aviation, and United Airlines.

AeroStar Programs

Spring

On April 30, 2022, after fun-packed months of learning and new experiences, AeroStar wrapped up their Spring programs. It was filled with winners and explosive activities. Three students won a Lego set for the attendance raffle, and instructors handed out achievement

award certificates to students. Participants were able to witness three rocket launches, safely outside and at a distance. To conclude the event and remember an aviation great, students signed a birthday card for Victor Butler, a Tuskegee Airman who celebrated his 100th year birthday on May 21, 2022. Though we are sad to see our Spring programs go, we're excited for the start of Summer and the new experiences it will bring!



Summer



The Summer program starts soon! It will run from July 5th - Aug 11th from 9:00 am - 1:00 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!

(Image Source: Wired)

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
Chicago, IL

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; CC: tholmes@aerostarcorp.com; Subject Line: Program Instructor.

Summer School Instructor

Part-Time
Gary, IN
\$50/hr.

This instructor will teach aviation enrichment for the Gary Area Career Center: 8th graders. This position will run from June 6th - June 30th, on Mon. - Thurs., from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.

Submit resume and cover letter to aai@avioninstitute.org.

Substitute Aviation Teacher

Part-Time
Gary, IN

This teacher will serve as a backup instructor in the case that the permanent teacher cannot be in attendance. This position will run from June 6th - June 30th, on Mon. - Thurs., from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.

Submit resume and cover letter to aai@avioninstitute.org.

Program Specialist

Full-Time
Chicago, IL

The primary role of the AeroStar Avion Institute's Program Manager is to manage and coordinate programs that align with AAI's mission and strategic goals; for example: program implementation, recruitment, fundraising, program operations, partnership development and assisting with the planning of outreach strategies. The Program Manager works alongside the Executive Director/CEO to accomplish these goals. The ideal candidate will be an excellent leader and will have experience in managing staff of different disciplines to produce results in a timely manner. They will be able to develop efficient strategies and tactics. The goal is to ensure that all programs deliver the desirable outcome to our organization. Apply [HERE](#).

Aviation Flight Program Instructor

Full-Time
Gary, IN

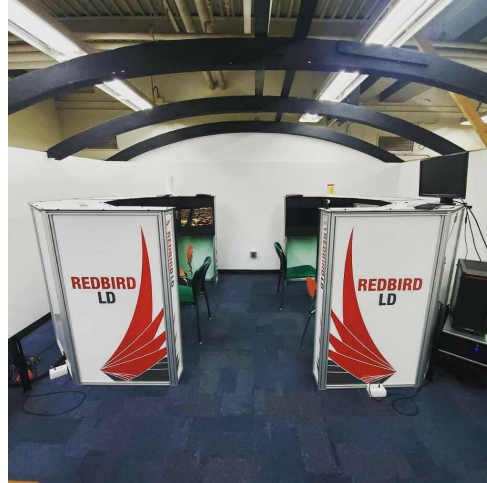
The Aviation Instructor for the Gary Area Career Center will be the primary instructor for students to receive FAA certified level training provided they successfully complete the program. The instructor accomplishes this by providing students with a program of study that teaches required program skills, 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



ON THE RADAR

Diversity is an important part of any field, and our differences must be celebrated and applauded. This month is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, and AeroStar wishes to recognize all of the contributions this group has made to the world of aviation, space and STEM, like Katherine Cheung and Sunita Williams, Kalpana Chawla and Ben Kuroki. To learn more about specific people and their achievements, visit the link [here](#)!



(Image Source: [Yale School of Management](#))
(Source: [Smithsonian National Air and Space](#))

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!

Reading Recommendations

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!

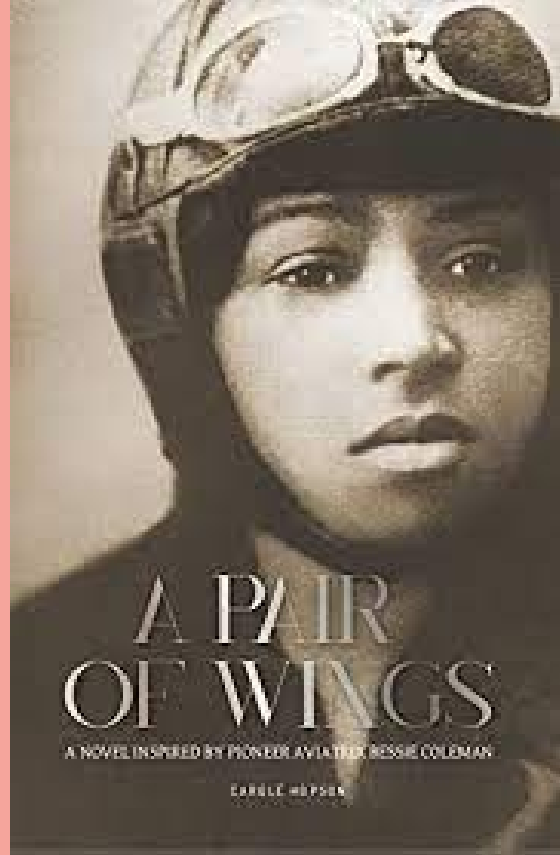
#thevioletbookseries
#wingstodreams

Read about one of the pioneers of aviation, Bessie Coleman!

A Pair of Wings: A Novel Inspired by Pioneer Aviatrix Bessie Coleman

Carole Hopson, a United Airlines pilot, has taken the life of famous aviatrix, Bessie Coleman, and created a novel. "A Pair of Wings," based on Coleman's life, discusses the impact of the Great Migration, her travel between France, Holland and Germany, and her unique aviation training and skills. She flew through the air with such finesse, earning her fearless nicknames like Daredevil, Queen Bess, and Brave Bessie. She would not be deterred by the sexism, racism and war of the times. She instead opened doors for those who would come to the field of aviation. In support of the 100 Pairs of Wings Project, 20% of the proceeds will go towards assisting the next generation of Black female pilots.

Buy a copy [HERE](#)!



CREDITS



Publisher: Team AeroStar
Editor: Tierra Shannon
Social Media Coordinator: Alexis Brownlow
Consultant: Kristy Farrakhan



AeroStar Avion Institute | 122 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 1390, Chicago, IL 60603

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