



## Welcome to AeroStar News

**Give the Gift of Wings and WIN 2 Round Trip Tickets on United!**



Hello AeroStar Family, Friends & Colleagues!

I hope everyone is having a joyful and amazing holiday season. This is a season of high spirits, giving, and family, and we hope that all of you are spending time with your family and loved ones. Aerostar is grateful for our partners, donors, and family in allowing us to accomplish wonders this year. Without your unrelenting support and encouragement, Aerostar would not be where it is today.

Whether you are celebrating Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, New Year's, or nothing at all, it is important to recognize that this is the season of GIVING. Give back to your communities, and extend a hand to those who are underrepresented and underprivileged.

The pandemic has affected millions of Americans, and combined with inflation and our current economy, it is very difficult for families to have great holidays with their loved ones. I encourage everyone to look into their local shelter, Toys for Tots, or other sponsorship opportunities as a way to give back this holiday season.

2022 really came and went, and I am overwhelmed when I reflect on what we have done throughout the year. Our Aerostar family was able to pull off amazing programs that gave our youth the chance to peer into the world of aviation. We were able to partner up with Boeing last month for Aviation Day 2022, which focused on introducing aviation to inner city youth.

We have the privilege to say we are the FIRST full K-Career aviation talent pipeline organization in the world, and through sheer willpower, we were able to allocate funds through our Aerostar Avion Institute, which allows us to continue our work with helping underserved populations. Thank you all for your continued support this year. As aforementioned, Aerostar would not be what it is without YOU!

It is also my utmost honor to announce that I will receive a Distinguished Service Award from my alma mater—Southern Illinois University. I was recommended by SIU Carbondale Chancellor Austin A. Lane. Receiving this award is an absolute privilege, and I refer my sincere gratitude and thanks to Southern Illinois University and Chancellor Austin A. Lane.

Accolades is not why I do what I do, but I am honored to have the entire AeroStar organization receive attention for the work that we do for our youth.

**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 #GoodLeadstheWay #AeroStarAvion #WingstoDreams



# AEROSTAR TESTIMONIAL



**Byron**

**AeroStar since age 17**

**USAF Reserves, Aircraft Hydraulics Specialists**

- Learned the history of aviation
- Flew flight simulators
- Became familiar with aviation mechanics by constructing model aircraft
- Learned the four forces of flight
- Found his passion for aviation



***"I was able to develop skills  
and a purpose in my life"***



*and a purpose in my life.*

—Byron

**DONATE**

**UNITED**



**The official Airlines of  
AeroStar Avion Institute**

Your gift of \$500 or more enters your name  
in a raffle to win 2 round trip tickets to  
anywhere in the United States.

Winner announced January 2023.



**Let your generosity lift YOU up!**

**ACE - \$1000**

**TOP GUN - \$750**

**CAPTAIN - \$500**

FIRST OFFICER - \$250

PRIVATE PILOT - \$100

GIVE WINGS - OTHER

**DONATE**



**GIVE WINGS**  
**THIS HOLIDAY**



**Your donation will help expose,  
educate, empower, and employ the  
aviation work force of the future.**

**DONATE**



***avioninstitute.org***

Please consider making a tax deductible contribution today!



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## Upcoming Events

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NASA Glenn's Office of STEM Engagement  
Invites K-4 Grade Students to Join...

***NASA STEM Kids Virtual Event***  
***Artemis Mission  
to the Moon***

***February 18, 2023 10- 11:30 a.m.***

Registration Opens: December 20, 2022

Registration Closes: January 20, 2023

- 
- ***Learn about the Artemis Missions***
  - ***Engage in conversations with NASA experts***
  - ***Participate in a hands-on STEM activity***

Please visit [go.nasa.gov/3SM7uFa](https://go.nasa.gov/3SM7uFa) to learn more

NASA Glenn Research Center is reaching out to inform you of an exciting opportunity for Kindergarten through fourth grade students to explore NASA and STEM careers – *Artemis Mission to the Moon*! Artemis Mission to the Moon is designed to inspire students interest in STEM fields. During the virtual event students will learn about the Artemis Missions, the moon, engage in conversations with NASA experts, a hands-on STEM activity, and a tour of a NASA Glenn facility. Registration is open. The event will be held on February 18, 2023 from 10:00 - 11:30am. Click [here](#) for additional registration details.

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# BLACK AVIATION EXCELLENCE

#BAE DAY CELEBRATION

GIVE WINGS TO DREAMS

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**FEBRUARY 22, 2023**



Website : [www.avioninstitute.org](http://www.avioninstitute.org)



On February 22, 2023, AeroStar will celebrate BAE Day. This day commemorates Black Aviation Excellence and will highlight historical Black figures in aviation that made way for the aviation field today. Additionally, aviation professionals will discuss possible careers in the industry and how Black people have made their way. Save the date!

## SpaceX Dragon Touches Down in Chicago!



At 12:00 pm on December 1, 2022, a flight-proven SpaceX Dragon spacecraft arrived at its new home: Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago. There was a historic ceremony to welcome the SpaceX Dragon cargo spacecraft. This outdoor ceremony on the



Museum's North Portico patio featured special guests and served as a centerpiece for a day filled with space-themed activities inside the Museum. AeroStar took part in this Space Festival along with other partners, setting up a booth for STEM education and flight simulations. The spacecraft will be seen on permanent display starting in spring 2023.

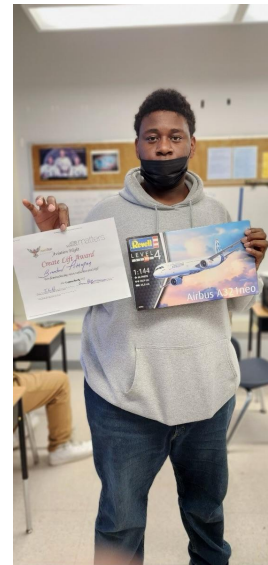
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## Fall Program Closing Ceremony

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After School Matters wrapped up their fall program with a closing ceremony for all participants. Students received certificates or awards and discussed their time in the program. We hope participants in the Aviation Exploration Apprenticeship Program continue their aviation and STEM education, and we'll be right behind them!



## Program Testimonials

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### ***Troy***

Because of this program, I am into college more informed about what's going on in the aviation industry. Because of this, I can take advantage of the opportunity and will have nothing but success if I keep my head in the sky. This program taught me the basics, so my flight instructor was impressed about how much I knew even before our first flight. This program gave me exposure, something most programs and high school does not do at all. I was also put in a leadership position as an intern. Although I still have room for improvement, I gained some skills and knowledge about being a teacher and public speaking. My advice to other students is join a program that prepares you for success and that does not give you busy work. This program has helped me get my foot in the door. It gave me a running start to a race I didn't know where I would end up. I was shown I could be whatever I want to be in the aviation field and more. Even if you do not go into aviation, you can take the skills you learned and apply it somewhere else. Soon AeroStar is not going to be a program for students just to get their foot in but to take a leap. Every time you look up, it's not a shooting star. It's AeroStar!

### ***Twanasia***

In 2018, I joined AeroStar. In this program, I've had some of the best experiences of my life. This program gave me an outlook on the many roles in aviation. Honestly, being a part of it changed my life forever. AeroStar gave me the resources I needed to step into the aviation world, and it confirmed that I was passionate about aircrafts and wanted to fly them. First, I wanted to be an aircraft mechanic, so I was really excited when we went to the Boeing Facility in South Carolina! I thought I was dreaming. I got to see a Boeing 787 Dreamliner in the process of being assembled, but while in this program, I was empowered and motivated so much that I knew I could do more than build them. I could fly them! Now, I do exactly that. I am currently a sophomore at Quincy University studying Aviation. I fly a Cessna 172 and am training to be an airline pilot. It's a dream come true, and I appreciate AeroStar for helping me find my dream career in aviation.

### ***MarLee***

The Boeing Summer Program for grades 5-8 was very inspirational. I learned a lot about aviation that I didn't know. I enjoyed the field trips to the different airports, the simulation activities, and hearing from

### ***Amber***

My experience at Aerostar was pretty cool. I came in knowing nothing, yet I came out with a lot of knowledge concerning

industry professionals currently active in the field. I still enjoy the simulation flight apps recommended by the instructors of the course. I will continue my early education in aviation, so that I can become a pilot when I grow up.

aviation. I am more interested in space aviation, but I am so happy that I decided to join this program.

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### ***Jadie***

This program was very beneficial to me because I didn't have a lot of experience with aviation when I first started. I know a lot more than when I first started the program. I learned how to read METARs, four forces of flight, aviation history, and a lot more. This program has helped solidify my dream and passion for aviation.

### ***Rebecca***

I learned about the history of aviation, parts of a plane, airport basics, space, how to prepare for college, and that it's okay to be undecided on where you want to go. I observed how well my instructors got along and assisted each other and their students throughout the program. I now see many different fields in aviation, and I want to become a mathematician for NASA. The inspirational people I met at AeroStar were Ms. Berry and Mr. J because they showed and taught us about aviation in different ways. The group showed me to be more confident and take risks throughout my path.

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### ***Damian***

During the program, we were placed in a classroom setting to learn about aeronautics and aerospace technology. We went on multiple trips to museums, airport tours, and airplane manufacturers. It was a very informative and engaging experience. We had many opportunities to meet new people. The AeroStar program helped me realize my passion for engineering.

### ***Isai***

This program gave me more information as to what my future career could be and how vast it is when it comes to specific career paths.

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### ***Caila***

This program helped me figure out exactly what in aviation I want to do.

### ***Barber***

I learned a lot about aviation, and this will help me in my classes for this school year.

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## ***Hear from AeroStar parents!***

### ***Jewel M.***

Selassiei was able to look at the problem-solving methods and make new leaps that transformed flight exploration from the unthinkable to the familiar.

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### ***Freda F.***

My daughter loved this program. She got up every Saturday eager to go to class. She learned about different careers in aviation, participated in flight simulations, and participated in aviation field trips. Even during the pandemic they held virtual

### ***Bridgett W.***

My children have been to a couple events with the program. The first one was at a church. The introduction of the hands-on stuff was pretty cool, but we were taken aback with the simulations. That was amazing to all of us. We had just started



classes. I recommend this program to all parents. Every child can benefit from the activities in these classes.

for the first time with classes right before the COVID crisis. They had their first field trip and enjoyed it. I'm always about exposure to our youth because without exposure our kids will never know what they can become and choose these fields as careers. A lot of times programs like this are never in our neighborhoods, so this is truly an asset to have locally among us.

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## Spring Program - Register NOW!

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Spring programs interest lists are now open! We are excited to have you join us in the Spring for more fun and learning. Saturday sessions start January 21, 2023. Programs are available for students in grades K-12. Fall program is still open for registration, click [here](#) to register now. Follow the [link](#) to let us know your interest in Spring programs! **Olive Harvey College has been home to our programs for the past 3 years! Words cannot express our gratitude for their hospitality and commitment to AeroStar students and families! Thank you Cheryl!!!**



## 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!

### WE ARE LOOKING FOR A PROGRAM SPECIALIST!

The **Program Specialist** is to manage and coordinate programs that align with AAI's mission and strategic goals; for example: program implementation, recruitment, fundraising, partnership development and assisting with the planning of outreach strategies. The Program Manager works alongside the Chief Operating Officer to accomplish these goals. Other responsibilities include: assisting with scheduling and

staffing volunteers for events; leading group volunteer experiences in AAI; delivering orientation and guiding volunteers at program locations; managing AAI'S event calendar and ensuring opportunities are posted on multiple Chicago volunteer sites, and more.

Submit resume and cover letter to [HR@avioninstitute.org](mailto:HR@avioninstitute.org) with the subject line, Program Specialist Applicant.

# Southwest®

A career at Southwest offers several benefits and perks, including unlimited space available flight privileges, our 9.3% 401(k) Company match, career mobility resources, and more! Apply [here](#)!

- **Aircraft Appearance Technicians** are essentially "airplane detailers." These folks clean the hangars and refresh our aircrafts and equipment to provide a safe environment for our Maintenance Technicians as well as our Customers. This role could be a great starting point for individuals who hope to pursue a career in aviation maintenance. **Pay starts at \$17/hour.**
- **Material Specialists** maintain Company storeroom logs and records, deliver aircraft parts to various Technical Operations Teams with Southwest Hospitality, and multitask effectively to meet required deadlines. This role could serve as an entry-point into a career in supply chain management or logistics. **Pay starts at \$17/hour.**

## Start Flight Training - Apply Now!

The **Tuskegee NEXT Summer Flight Program** is open for applications! It is a full-time, residential program in the Chicago area that runs from mid-June to mid-August. It is open to applicants between the ages of 18-20, whom have completed their junior year of high school with a minimum 2.75 GPA. Tuskegee NEXT seeks to provide role models and a clear path toward aviation careers through Flight Training, Life Skills, and Educational Assistance. The Tuskegee NEXT Summer Flight Program Application Deadline is December 31. Apply [HERE](#).





Checkride Prep offers a Free Online Private Pilot's Course to help aspiring and existing pilots. Courses are accurate, reliable, and professional, so you can quickly learn quality content and prepare yourself for a bright flying future. The course consists of 12 classes including 35+ hours of instruction, which include quizzes after every class and live chat. Long gone are the days of waiting to become a pilot. Now is the time to start your aviation journey for absolutely free. Click [here](#) for more information and registration.

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## Student Resources

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The **Flight Crew** is a group of youth advocates promoting the value of out-of-school STEM learning and equity in STEM for young people across the nation. The 2023 Flight Crew will participate in eight months of youth development and public speaking training to share:

- First-hand, impactful STEM experiences beyond the classroom that inspire,
- Aspirations to break down stereotypes and spark their peers' curiosity in STEM, and
- The ability to connect their STEM experiences to everyday life.

Youth (13-18) who identify as female, gender-expansive, or outside of the identity of cis-gender male, with experiences in out-of-school time STEM, are invited to apply to become a Million Girls Moonshot Flight Crew member! The deadline is November 27. Apply [here](#)!

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## ON THE RADAR

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### Two Black Rocket Scientists Team Up in Love and Space!!! ARTEMIS 1 LAUNCH TO THE MOON

During our 2022 Spring program, AeroStars followed the planning of the Artemis 1 Mission to the Moon through [NASA's Lego Artemis 1 Curriculum](#). We were excited for students to witness history in the making as the Artemis program landed the first person of color—and the first woman—on the moon! AeroStars have been following Artemis I Mission launch schedule with great anticipation. New updates have arrived. The Artemis I mission launched!

On Nov. 16, the Space Launch System (SLS) and Interim Cryogenic Propulsion Stage successfully propelled the Orion spacecraft on its first voyage around the Moon. The Artemis I mission lifted off at 1:47 a.m. Eastern time from Launch Complex 39B at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Eight and a half minutes into flight, the Boeing-built core stage completed its mission and separated from the Boeing-United Launch Alliance-made upper stage. The SLS core stage demonstrated several important functions, including fueling both tanks, actuating the hydraulic system, igniting the engines, running thrust vector control programs in flight, depleting the fuel tanks, shutting down the engines, and conducting successful separation and disposal maneuvers. Our friends at [ROCKET WITH THE FLETCHERS](#), played a key role in building the the rocket! We are so proud of Myron and Tiera Fletcher!!! Hats off to

you guys!

To learn more about the tech and team behind the SLS, visit our [Artemis I mission website](#).

(Source: [Boeing](#); [CNN](#))  
(Image Source: ScienceAlert)



### Rocket With The Fletchers

4d · 🌐

These are faces of [#rocketscience](#) joy! After wiping tears of celebration, we captured this moment!

We both started with [NASA Artemis](#) [The Boeing Company](#) directly after finishing undergrad. Our [#aerospace](#) careers developed in parallel with [#NASASLS](#), from the earliest stages. Our roles in the [#SLS](#) journey, plus the many roles in between:

🚀 Rocket Propulsion Engineer... [See more](#)



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## Celebrating the Diversity of the Holiday Season!



AeroStar wishes you a happy holiday no matter what you celebrate! Did you know that eight holidays are celebrated all around the world this season? Can you guess them all?

- **Christmas** - This is celebrated on December 25th, and celebrates the birthday of Jesus Christ. This holiday is rooted in Christian theology.
- **Hanukkah** - This is celebrated on December 18th and ends December 26th. Hanukkah is rooted in Jewish theology, and celebrates the recovery of Jerusalem.
- **Kwanzaa** - This holiday starts on December 26th and ends January 1st. It is rooted in African American culture, and celebrates pan-African values and fellowship. Kwanzaa is one of the few winter holidays that is based on culture rather than religion.
- **Three Kings Day** - This is celebrated on January 6th. This is a Christian feast day.
- **Winter Solstice** - This is on December 21st. When the Earth's poles reach its maximum tilt away from the Sun, and there is the least amount of sunlight in the sky.
- **St. Lucia Day** - This is another Christian feast day that is celebrated on December 13th.
- **St. Nicholas Day** - This holiday celebrates the life of St. Nicholas, and it occurred on December 6th.
- **New Year's** - This holiday celebrates the end of the year and the beginning of the new year.

Source: (confidentparentsconfidentkids.org)  
(Image Source: Jennifer Miller (2015))

## Donate Today!

### GIVING SEASON IS HERE!

We're fired up about GIVING SEASON as we expand our mission to train and employ youth in this exciting industry. Now 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...the future of aviation...[DONATE NOW!](#)*

**Give Wings to Dreams!**

## Book Teaches Kids to Fly Through Fear

What if you were afraid to fly? Authors Kenyatta Scott and contributor Tamera L. Holmes join forces to show girls and boys how to face their fears! Grab a copy, or three for the children in your family this holiday season.

### 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

## FAA Youth Aviation Task Force Report Makes 21 Recommendations to Secure Future Aviation Workforce

*To have served on this Task Force is truly a culmination of my life's work to this point,' says Tammera L. Holmes, of AeroStar. "For decades, our organization has been in the trenches implementing new and innovative ways to attract and retain diverse talent from underrepresented groups while aviation has remained more than 90% white and male for 120 years.*

*The time is now, and the urgency is here to remove barriers to entry for women and minorities, while increasing the critical talent pool necessary to support America's global impact on the world's premier transportation system."*

### Article by Kathrynn Creedy

"The Youth Access to Aviation Jobs in America Task Force (YIATF) set out the herculean tasks needed to turn the great recommendations from its just released report into reality. Reading the YIATF report is as daunting as it is hopeful, but no one said this "moon shot" would be easy.

But to get recommendations done will mean industry reform as well since it is one of the biggest obstacles. Industry has called for workforce development programs for years usually pointing at someone else to do the heavy lifting. It, however, must understand we cannot rely on "someone else," but must gather our forces to what needs to be done ourselves. With its many recommendations, industry must now take up the gauntlet because we know we can do it. All we need is organization.

A key conclusion, the 21-member Task Force found was, as suspected, waiting until high school is too late, recommending



### Youth Access to American Jobs in Aviation (YIATF) Report



Presented By YIATF Task Force

education start by age 10, and again reinforcing the message at late high school when students are turning interests into career ambitions."

**Read the full article [here](#).**

**To view the full report, please visit [here](#).**

**To watch the final public meeting, [click here](#).**

(Source: [Future Aviation/AeroSpace Workforce News](#))

## Summary of Recommendations



### Early Awareness and Engagement

1. Fund libraries to provide aviation and aerospace books and media
2. Provide in-person engagement whenever possible and develop written materials on aviation and aerospace for school staff and teachers
3. Develop turnkey afterschool aviation and aerospace activities
4. Launch early outreach to future teachers and guidance counselors
5. Empower teachers to ignite student interest
6. Meet the students where they are with gaming and social media
7. Industry stakeholders can sponsor student competitions

### Information Access

8. Create a one-stop aviation/aerospace information portal
9. Create a "virtual counselor" component on the site

### Collaboration

10. Create industry advisory councils
11. Tap the power of college and career readiness platforms
12. Significantly increase the mentoring, pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships available to grow future employees
13. Build educational outreach to underrepresented groups at Minority-Serving Institutions, community colleges and technical institutions
14. Dual enrollment programs between high schools and colleges/universities as well as workforce development grant programs create well-aligned pathways.

### Address Financial Hurdle

15. Decrease the cost of flight training by increasing the allowable simulator time for pilot certification
16. Increase the maximum Pell Grant for students
17. Develop a national aviation scholarship program
18. Implement a multi-faceted aerospace workforce development program
19. Increase donations to aerospace education programs by increasing the corporate tax benefit
20. Aviation and aerospace companies could consider several different financial options to assist in bringing underrepresented groups to the sector
21. The FAA should review its regulations and guidance related to technical proficiency of industry personnel and certification standards as well as update its own practices for managing and developing government human resources

## CREDITS



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