



## Welcome to AeroStar News

### Remembering, Honoring and Climbing! Aerostar Celebrates Black History Month



Good Day AeroStar Family and Friends!

This February we had an extraordinary time remembering Black Aviation Excellence, honoring legends and climbing to new heights to explore the future of human space travel. As we forge ahead into 2023, our vision has never been more clear. This year, as we continue to build our award-winning aviation exploration and apprenticeships programs, we are launching into space education and taking a deep dive into aerospace engineering. The future of flight is here!

African Americans make up less than 2% of the aviation/aerospace industry and women comprise less than 15%. The legacy of Blacks in aviation is strong and we stand on the shoulders of giants, like O. Lawton Wilkerson, who was the last surviving Documented Tuskegee Airmen of the Chicago DODO Chapter. As a matter of fact, so many of our history

makers are still young and thriving. Firsts are still being made every day by African American men and women who continue to achieve their dreams in Aviation. There is a huge need for AeroStar programs to be modeled across the US and in critical markets around the world, to expose, educate, empower and employ future Black and Brown aviators. With your support, we can answer the call. Here is how you can help.

1. SHARE this newsletter
2. Register a youth for the AeroSTEM Expo on April 1st
3. Make a donation
4. Refer a friend/colleague/employer to our network

In this month's issue of AeroStar News, you will learn about our **adventure to Nairobi Kenya**, the **new Bessie Coleman quarter minted by the US Treasury**, **Upcoming AeroSTEM Expo**, **American Airlines Aviation Day with SIU** and our **girls workshop for Engineering Week at Illinois Tech**. You will also learn about **scholarships, summer jobs and internships!**

Thank you to all of our amazing donors, partners, and supporters. Without your continued generosity, we would not be where we are today!

To donate, in-kind services, and sponsorships click [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 on the Global Stage at Nexus Nairobi



Our Founder & CEO, Tammera L. Holmes spent a week in Nairobi, Kenya for the inaugural Nexus Nairobi conference focused on space, culture and purpose. Presenters from over the world converged in the "Cradle of Civilization" to strategize on our human efforts to make earthlings an interplanetary species. From living and working in space and the business of space, to how innovations that move us toward interstellar space travel could improve life right here on our planet.

Holmes conducted a workshop with Dr. Peggy Brookings on Educating for Generations, a session that explored how we are teaching space to today's youth and what are the greatest factors influencing recruitment and retention of future space talent. She was invited to speak on the future of aerospace education.

AeroStar is humbled to share the global stage with ICON Dr. Mae Jemison, the first African American Female Astronaut and the first person of color in Space. Her organization 100 Years Star Ship is celebrating its ten year anniversary. The theme, "When Space, Purpose and Culture Collide," rang true as we celebrated the world of science, space, astronomy, and aviation. We look forward to partnering Dr. Mae and 100 Years Starship as this groundbreaking work continues.



## UPCOMING AEROSTAR EVENTS

The 5th Annual AeroSTEM Expo  
April 1, 2023



The 5th Annual AeroSTEM Expo, in partnership with Illinois Tech is a one-of-a-kind, hands on aviation science technology engineering and math immersion for youth grades 5th through 12th in the Chicagoland area.

Participants in the expo will experience aviation/ space activities, learn about industry careers, hear from colleges and universities regarding post secondary programs and meet meet and receive mentoring from professionals within aviation and space industries.

The long-standing partnership with Illinois Tech serves as a model for public-private partnerships commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in STEM education, and has made this event one of AeroStar's top recruitment activities for year-round programming.

**Please join us on Saturday, April 1st, 2023 at 9 AM, Illinois Institute of Technology, Hermann Hall**

**Get tickets [HERE](#)**

# American Airlines Career Day

*April 15, 2023*



*Join us on a flight from  
O'Hare to Carbondale to see what  
a career in aviation is like!*

**Registration begins March 1st at 10:00 AM  
on our website**

**aviation.siu.edu**

**SIU** Southern Illinois University  
CARBONDALE

The SIU Aviation Department is holding their annual American Airlines Career Day on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023. This event is open to high school students in the Chicagoland area who are interested in a career in aviation. This is a free event that will depart from Chicago O'Hare on Saturday morning, April 15, 2023..... and return to O'Hare that afternoon.

Students will be provided lunch and dinner as well as the opportunity to interact with American Airlines employees who are alumni of our aviation program. We will also give tours of our facility as well as campus. Students will also receive an event T-Shirt.

The application will be available on our website; starting Wednesday, March 1st.... At 10:00 AM. This event is a first come first serve basis so make sure your students are paying attention to our website and checking the email they used to register.

**Girls Launched at  
Engineering Her Future in Space Event**



We had an amazing time inspiring nearly 50 Future Female Aerospace engineers at Illinois Institute of Technology in partnership with the Office of Community Affairs!

We began with an amazing keynote from IIT alumni engineering, CEO and founder Mae C. Williams. A Team of IIT instructors conducted engineering projects alongside our AMAZING AeroStar lead instructors Vanzell Jenkins and Erica Okogun! Thanks to VP of Community Affairs Alicia Bunton and event coordinator Seebany, for being outstanding partners! Lastly, thanks to our generous, anonymous sponsors for providing all of the snacks for the girls!









## Honoring the Life and Legacy of Aviatrix Bessie Coleman and Tuskegee Airman O. Lawton Wilkerson

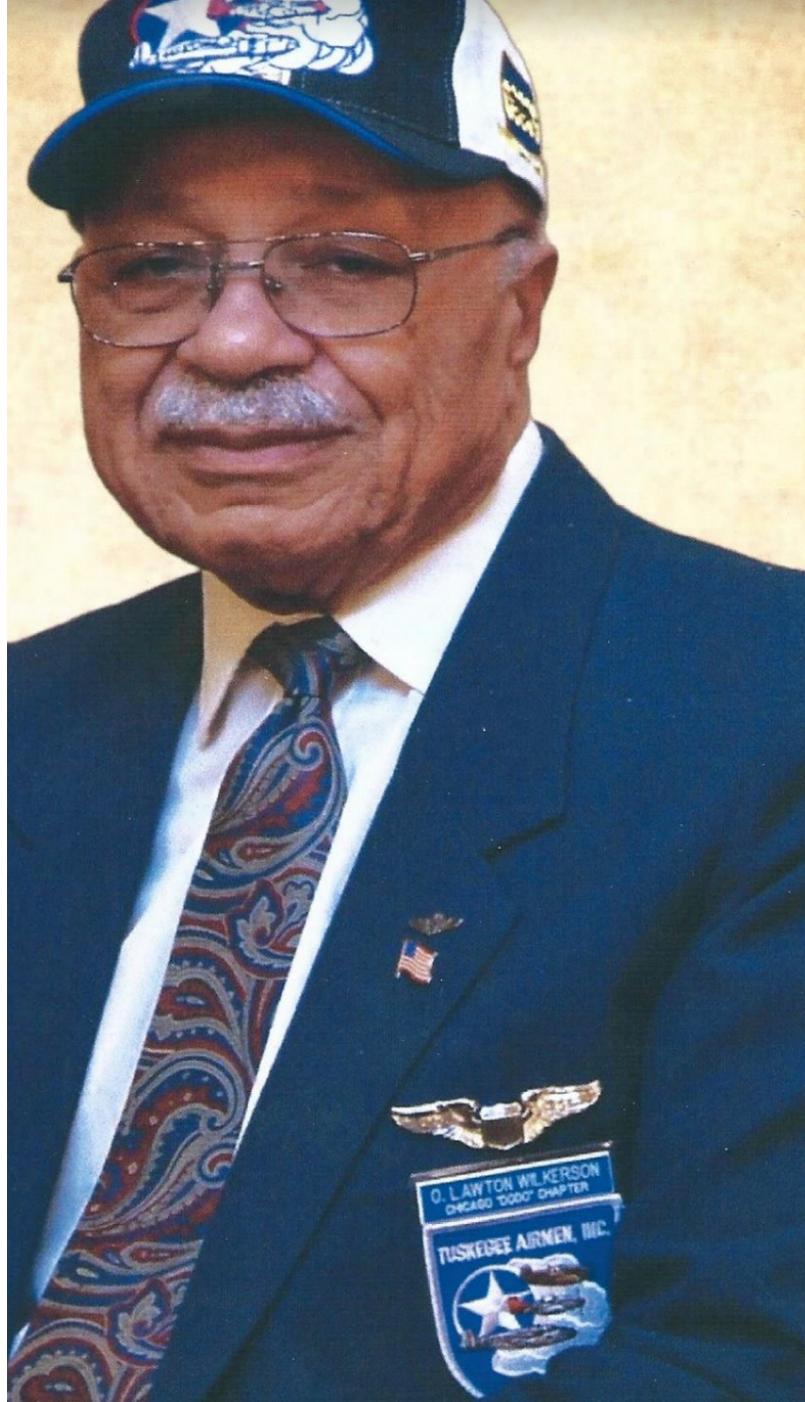
On Saturday February 18th, The DuSable Black History Museum and Education Center held an event celebrating the life of “Queen Bess” with a monologue by her great niece, Gigi Coleman, in the presence of a host of living relatives and guests. The attendees were surprised to receive the announcement that Bessie was selected to be minted in the new American Women Collection of quarter dollars. All attendees received a newly minted Bessie Coleman quarter and were able to purchase the Bessie Coleman Barbie.



The global icon and first African American and person of Native American heritage to receive an international pilots license, Bessie Coleman, was commemorated this Black History Month with two spectacular honors. Mattel partnered with the Coleman family to create the first Bessie Coleman Barbie (add purchase website hyperlink), which is a part of the Inspiring Women Series of dolls that include: pilot Sally Ride, the first female astronaut in space, famous poet, Maya Angelou, civil rights icon Rosa Parks and activist Ida B. Wells.

Gigi Coleman did an extraordinary job sharing her aunt Bessie's story. And to see all of the women of color in aviation out celebrating this momentous occasion was truly heartwarming.

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AeroStar sends its sincere condolences to the family of O. Lawton Wilkerson, who passed away on February 8th, 2023. Wilkerson was a trailblazer for Black figures in aviation, and made his mark on the history of the industry.

Lawton knew as a youngster, playing with his friends, that someday he would become a pilot. They built model airplanes from wood with rice paper coverings, powered by rubber bands expertly crafted by adolescent engineers. Even at such a young age, he aspired to be more than what most thought a young Black man could be at that time. Motivated by his desire to become a pilot, Lawton ignored the limitations society put on people who looked like him, accepted the challenges that came with his plans and became a student cadet in the Civil Air Patrol at Chicago Heights Airport.

He signed up for and passed the pilot training exam for the Army Air Force. He entered the U.S. Army Air Force's Aviation Cadet training program in Tuskegee, Alabama. He was assigned to the 617th Bombardment Squadron where he was trained to fly the B-25 "Billy Mitchell" Bomber. He received his commission as a 2nd lieutenant and his wings as a B-25 pilot in 1946. In this capacity, he served in various positions at U.S. Airbases until his Honorable Discharge.

# Scholarship & Internships in Aviation and STEM

## ARE YOU CURIOUS ABOUT HOW SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING CAN BE USED TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT?

This summer at the Adler Planetarium in Far Horizons Teens, high school students will learn about light pollution and what we can do to prevent it. Through hands-on activities, participants will develop skills in electronic circuitry, computer programming, structural design, and teamwork.

June 26, 2023–July 14, 2023 | Mon.–Fri. | 10:00 am–4:00 pm  
Successfully complete the workshop series to earn a \$350 stipend  
APPLICATION CLOSES MARCH 3

YOU SHOULD APPLY TO FAR HORIZONS TEENS IF YOU'RE . . .

- Enrolled in 8th–11th grade during the 2022–2023 school year
- Interested in learning new STEM skills and passionate about science
- A team player who collaborates well with peers

## A SUMMER WORKSHOP LIKE NO OTHER!

Also at the Adler Planetarium, in Mission Near Space, teens become part of a unique team of engineers and astronomers whose goal is to prepare, launch, track, and retrieve a scientific payload sent to the stratosphere aboard a high altitude balloon. The week ends with a showcase in which participants present their exploration results to family members. [bit.ly/MNS2023](https://bit.ly/MNS2023)

- Each session will be Monday–Friday, 9:00 am–3:00 pm  
Session One: June 19, 2023–June 23, 2023
- Session Two: July 24, 2023–July 28, 2023
- Session Three: July 31, 2023–August 4, 2023

Successfully complete the full-week session to earn a \$100 Visa Gift Card  
APPLICATION CLOSES MARCH 3

Participant Eligibility:

- Applicants must be enrolled in 7th–8th grade during the 2022–2023 school year
- Applicants must attend a Chicago Public School (CPS)
- Priority is given to participants attending CPS neighborhood or charter schools
- Priority is given to participants who identify as African American and/or Latinx
- Participants will be selected to ensure geographic representation of Chicago

For more information on these Adler summer opportunities, [click here](#).

A promotional banner for the AMAC Foundation Scholarship Application. The background is a teal-tinted image of a woman in a flight suit sitting in a cockpit. On the left, a vertical orange bar contains the year '2023'. The main text reads 'AMAC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION' in white and orange. Below this, a question asks if the applicant is a woman and/or minority student pursuing a career in aviation or aerospace. A red button says 'APPLY TODAY' and the deadline is 'March 10, 2023'. The website 'www.amac-org.com/foundation/scholarships' is listed at the bottom. The AMAC Foundation logo is in the bottom right corner.

2023

AMAC FOUNDATION  
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Are you a woman and/or  
minority student pursuing a  
career in the aviation or  
aerospace industry?

**APPLY TODAY** Deadline: March 10, 2023

[www.amac-org.com/foundation/scholarships](http://www.amac-org.com/foundation/scholarships)

THE AMAC  
FOUNDATION  
OPERATING ON THE EDGE

To apply for the AMAC Foundation Scholarship, click [HERE](#)



Students will gain insight into some hot topics with hands-on research experience as they interact with graduate students and faculty while learning how to work as a team member and understand how to conduct real-world research.

**Participants will receive a stipend of \$550 per week.**

The applicants are required to have a *foundational background in mathematics* (calculus, differential equations, and linear algebra) and some *programming skills*. All applications received by **March 15th** will receive full consideration. Applications will be received until the positions are filled. The SURE program anticipates funding from the National Science Foundation, which is gratefully acknowledged.

Apply Scan



### Speedier Simulations

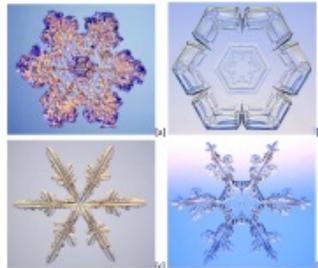
*Advisers: Dr. Sou-Cheng Choi and Dr. Fred Hickernell*

Monte Carlo methods are used to solve problems involving uncertainty, such as financial risk and geophysical problems whose parameters are not known precisely. The speedy simulations research group develops and implements algorithms in an open-source Python package called QMCPy that speeds up Monte Carlo simulations. By joining the speedy simulations research group, students will experience teamwork, learn to identify and solve research problems, follow good practices in technical software development, and hone their communication skills.

### From the formation of snowflakes to crystal growth

*Adviser: Dr. Shuwang Li*

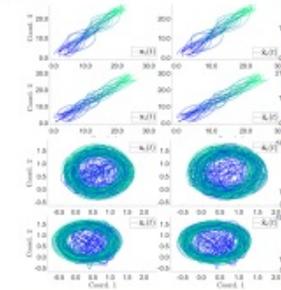
In this project, students will learn the underlying physics of snowflake formation and evolution. In particular, students will be exposed to the general concepts of mathematical modeling and hands-on scientific computing.



### Learning and modeling collective behaviors

*Advisers: Dr. Yubin Lu and Dr. Ming Zhong*

In this project, students will learn how to model collective behaviors with the help of proper machine-learning tools and possibly validate the learning method on experimental data.



If you have any questions, feel free to email [yding2@iit.edu](mailto:yding2@iit.edu)

## 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.



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.**
  - **Virtual Job Chats with Southwest Employees:** Are you curious about what it's like to work for an airline or what jobs are available after graduation? Southwest Airlines is excited to host quarterly virtual conversations with Southwest Employees to share about possible career paths in the aviation industry! Our first conversation will focus on working in the day-to-day operation. Click [HERE](#) for more information.
  - **Southwest Scholarship Opportunities:** The Southwest Airlines Scholarship provides access to education and is available to those seeking diverse educational pathways. This scholarship is open to students across the country who have a career interest in the airline industry—whether that interest is in frontline operations, maintenance, corporate roles, or the many roles in between. Click [HERE](#) for more information.
  - **OBAP Aerospace Career Education (ACE):** Academies are week-long summer programs designed to introduce middle and high school students to the history of aviation, fundamentals of aerodynamics, and aerospace careers available. Join Southwest at academies around the country. To apply, click [HERE](#)
  - **Explore Aerospace:** Over the course of 12 weeks, students will learn about principles of flight, aerodynamics, and take virtual tours. They'll also be able to meet with guest speakers from the aviation industry to learn more about aerospace careers. To apply, click [HERE](#)
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**Donate Today!**

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**YOUR CONTRIBUTION CAN CHANGE LIVES!**

You can help 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

## CREDITS



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