



Welcome to AeroStar News

A Time to Reflect



Dear AeroStar Friends and Family,

We are almost halfway through 2023! Can you believe it? December is typically the time where we reflect on where we are and what's ahead, but who says we can't do a mid-year check-up? We've all set goals, have been working toward them and most assuredly have had at least some small victories in the first part of this year, right? Vacation is coming up? Summer plans are in full effect? Well, I hate to insert a reality check, but by the end of summer, we're 3 months away from the Holidays LOL! So what better time to reflect on your goals for 2023 and realign your actions to the vision you have for this year and beyond, than NOW.

As I continue to grow as a leader, professional, executive and mentor, I have my sights on the longterm vision for AeroStar. Reflecting on the dozens of awards, achievements, accolades and recognitions

that we have received over the past 15 years, nothing compares to the pure joy of seeing the impact of our programs and pathway connections we have made for thousands of underrepresented students across the US. With that in mind, we will be broadening our program offerings to provide **Aviation STEM educator training, resource management for high school counselors, monthly career coaching live webinars nationwide, stakeholder convenings and workshops for parents/caregiver engagement!** This is the future of AeroStar! Our reach has now crossed international borders and the widespread need for our programming strategies is evident. With your support, we can continue to change the face of aviation, one child at a time.

In this month's newsletter, we will share info on upcoming events, introduce you to our newest international exchange Fellows through the US Department of State's IREX program, highlight emerging aviation and STEM engagement activities and broadcast amazing opportunities for summer jobs, internships and employment!

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 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

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 5th Annual AeroSTEM Expo
SUNDAY
June 25, 2023



**5th Annual
AeroSTEM Expo
Sunday
June 25, 2023**

**10 a.m.–1 p.m.
Lunch 1 p.m.–2 p.m.
Tickets \$10**

In Partnership with
Illinois Institute of Technology

Hermann Hall
3241 South Federal Street
Chicago, IL 60616

Register today
at Eventbrite



eventbrite.com/e/aerostem-expo-
2023-tickets-552809105917

Chicago area youth and their families will experience

- f Immersive hands-on aviation/aeronautical activities
- f Learn about careers in aviation/aeronautics you may not be aware of
- f Hear from colleges and universities regarding post secondary programs
- f Receive mentoring from professionals within the aviation and space industries

Lunch sponsored 

ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Office of Community Affairs

The 5th Annual AeroSTEM Expo is finally here!!!! This landmark event, 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 Chicago Metropolitan 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 Sunday, June 25th, 2023 at 10 AM - 2PM, Illinois Institute of Technology, Hermann Hall

To volunteer or get tickets click [HERE](#)

Aviation's Salute To Pioneer Colorful Women



Bessie Coleman



Willa Brown



Janet Harmon Bragg

Bessie Coleman Willa Brown Janet Harmon Bragg

**** SAVE THE DATE ****

Date: **June 10, 2023 at 1:00PM**

Location: **Bult Field (C56)**

28261 S. Kedzie Monee, IL.



AeroStar's Global Impact!

Meet the Visionaries Who Are Paving The Way for a Better World



The U.S. Department of State funded IREX (International Research and Exchange Board) has acknowledged AAI as an outstanding host for three international fellows in the past (from Morocco, Ukraine and Nepal), and we were offered an opportunity to host not one, but two fellows this spring!

The Community Engagement Exchange (CEE) Program is a dynamic global network of

innovators working with communities to address critical 21st Century issues. CEE equips dedicated visionaries with the expertise, skills, and resources to develop multi-sector approaches and build healthy and engaged communities. To do this, CEE brings **140 young leaders ages 21-28 from 89+ countries** to the United States annually for a three-month practicum with U.S. community-based organizations. During this practicum from April 24 - July 14, 2023, fellows will spend **32-hours per week** supporting the work of the AeroStar Avion Institute. CEE Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and supported in its implementation by IREX.

Our CEE fellows this year--**Mila Pankratova**, and **Rana Afi**---are just breaking into their work in civil society and they are very enthusiastic and eager to learn from us here at AAI. We are excited to have them!

IREX Nepal Update! AeroStar will officially be launching our partnership with United Community Nepal (UniCoN) for our "Soaring into STEM" Aviation Program in Pokhara! We could not have done this without the hard work of our 2022 Fellow **Binod Neupane** and his amazing team! To donate to our Aviation program in Nepal [CLICK HERE](#)



Binod Neupane is an experienced community development practitioner with over 13 years of expertise in program design and implementation for social, economic, and educational development. Fueled by unwavering support and mentorship from AeroStar, Binod's dedication and passion for community development converged. In March 2022, he established UnitedCommunity Nepal (UniCoN) with a mission to serve at least 10,000 marginalized women and children by 2030. As the founder and Executive Director, Binod focuses on bringing together women, children, communities, and innovative ideas to create a brighter future. Community Education Projects hold a central place in his work, as he firmly believes in their potential to strengthen communities, promote social mobility, and empower disadvantaged populations. With unyielding determination, Binod leads UniCoN's tireless efforts to uplift marginalized communities in Nepal, championing their causes, and paving the way for a better tomorrow. His story showcases the profound impact that dedication and passion can have on communities and serves as an inspiration

for us all to make a positive impact and empower future generations.



Mila Pankratova works at the Kazakhstan Foundation for Cultural, Social and Educational Development (KFCSED) in Almaty. Project Mira works with girls of 15-22 years of age from remote and rural places in Kazakhstan in the area of capacity building. Prior to leading her own project, she has walked a journey towards social work that was full of learning and self-development. At the age of 15 she was very drawn to the idea of helping people with small actions and felt that she can make an effective impact in the lives of her fellows. That was the start of her career and wonderful journey to social work that helped to understand herself better and do the same for many people. Next few years, Mila participated in various programs and projects where she created a book with grant funds for children about modern environmental problems with pictures. These experiences allowed her to land a full-time job at KFCSED as a lead coordinator of Mira. Mira project is primarily about women and gender and in her country, there are many issues in domestic violence and discrimination towards women, many of which were traditionally part of the culture.

Mila is inspired to expand her competences and understanding of social work with the CEE program. The program works with 100 countries which means that there are at least 100 ways to approach challenges and opportunities more innovatively and effectively.



Rana Afri (she/her), Tunisia: Rana works for the Association Ambition Sidi Bouzid from Tunisia. Rana is a youth equality activist working on providing access to education and high-quality services for youth and vulnerable populations all around the world. Rana's biggest dream is to have a community where youth are equal and where everyone is supported to have access to resources and decision-making and to be recognized, valued, and respected. She supports the younger generation and she works hard every single moment to eliminate youth discrimination. Her plan for civil society is to start a non-profit organization that advocates for youth and helps them to become an active part of society. During her CEE practicum, Rana hopes to learn how to run and organize a non-profit organization so that she can encourage cooperation and sponsorship with national and international governmental, civil, and private) organizations. With these relationships, she can build small companies and projects to create employment opportunities for young people and also start voluntary schools that help to offer educational opportunities for youth

On The Radar

How China developed its first large domestic airliner to take on Boeing and Airbus



China is currently building C919, an aircraft devised to rival that of Boeing and Airbus. China has been absent in the aviation industry, but they are attempting to make their mark with this new aircraft built by COMAC. The C919 has been a strategic goal for China for decades, and the development of the aircraft is a source of national pride. However, the C919's existence may pose a threat to American aircrafts.

[Read the Full Article Here](#)

**Retired Alaska Airlines turboprop to get new life
as 'world's largest' hydrogen-powered plane**



A retired Bombardier Q400 turboprop is getting a new lease on life. Alaska Airlines has replaced all of their turboprops with regional jets, but that doesn't mean that the turboprops are useless. The turboprop has been given to ZeroAvia, who plan to use the piece of machinery to create the largest hydrogen-powered plane in the world. This decision is inspired by ZeroAvia's push to create more eco-friendly alternatives in aviation. The project will take five years to complete, but we watch with great interest in what they have in store.

[Read the Full Article Here](#)

High schoolers use STEM skills to give kids with disabilities more freedom and fun



A group of high schoolers at Southport High in Indiana have built seven electric cars for disabled kids to play with. The club was started by seventeen-year-old Katie Essex, who felt inspired to give disabled children a way to have fun and be autonomous with their peers. She started a club called mini movers, and has been designing electric cars with her classmates since 2021. Since then, multiple disabled children in the community have been able to get free electric cars. The club teaches other high schoolers how to not only make these mini cars, but how to properly implement accessibility features.

[Read the Full Article Here](#)

Reducing bias in an AI-enabled STEM learning environment



The University of Oregon is leading research on how to minimize bias in AI. Bias is unavoidable in humans, but does that mean that bias also has to exist in artificial intelligence? Daniel Lowd is an associate professor in the Department of Computer Science at UO, who is determined to create learning systems that are cognizant of sociocultural influences and cognitive needs. The research will pool from a diverse population such as girls and people of color.

[Read the Full Article Here](#)

Student Opportunities



Summer is around the corner, and Southwest Airlines is providing multiple summer opportunities for students who are interested in aviation and aerospace careers.

Organization of Black Aerospace Professional (OBAP) Aerospace Career Education (ACE) Academies:

- Southwest Airlines is honored to partner with OBAP to inspire students to explore careers in aviation.
- OBAP 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.
- Spots are filling up, so register as soon as possible!

Additional Resources:

- The Choose Aerospace aviation maintenance curriculum puts high school students on a direct path to mechanic certification. They are now accepting curriculum applications for Fall 2023 [HERE](#)
 - The Federal Aviation Administration has opened enrollment for the next Airport Design Challenge, in which teams of up-to five children compete to design innovative airports in the video game Minecraft. [Learn more and register.*](#)
 - The Horatio Alger CTE Scholarship is for students who plan to pursue career certification or technical education (like aviation maintenance programs!) at accredited non-profit post-secondary institutions in the United States. [Applications are open](#) through June 15.
-

POWER TO THE PROFESSIONAL BOOTCAMP!

For girls in 10th, 11th, and 12th grade

5
DAYS

Monday, June 26 - Friday, June 30
12pm - 4pm | 10am - 4pm on Field Trip Days

DAY 1 - MONDAY

Build your leadership skills and learn how to dress for success

DAY 2 - TUESDAY

Attend a fun career exploration and learn how to make powerful first impressions that will last

DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY

Attend a fun career exploration in the beauty industry and learn how to collaborate and work with others on a team

DAY 4 - THURSDAY

Learn about managing emotions and participate in a networking event

DAY 5 - FRIDAY

Learn how to do appropriate makeup for the workplace and attend the closing ceremony

Apply by Friday, May 26, 2023 at

LOVChicago.org/apply

*Applying does not guarantee acceptance. You must receive an email confirmation stating your acceptance before you can attend.

Location:

Kennicott Park

4434 S Lake Park Ave, Chicago, IL. 60653

Follow us    @LOVChicago

Click [HERE](#) to apply



The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) is now accepting applications for the SUMMER of 2024 Internship program.

If you are interested in a paid student internship with NGA, the announcement for SUMMER 2024 internships is live on our website. An internship with NGA is an exciting opportunity to support one of the key members of the U.S. Intelligence Community (IC). NGA interns solve real world problems and work on efforts that improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Agency and our mission.

Internship assignments are open to **associate, undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate students** and are based on entry-level professional job descriptions, which will involve a great deal of independent and team oriented work under the guidance of a senior-level supervisor and mentors. Most internship positions are located in Springfield, VA (10 miles south of Washington, DC) and St. Louis, MO. Students who perform successfully and meet program requirements are invited to continue in the program for the duration of their degree programs, and may be granted the opportunity for conversion to permanent employment upon graduation. Our converted student interns are the primary source of NGA's early-career talent.

The 1st **wave** of the SUMMER 2024 Internship vacancy announcement **Closes June 11th, 2023!** The second job announcement will be **Posted July 1st through September 30th**. Both job postings will be applicable to the Summer 2024 program. It is **CRUCIAL** to apply early and before the 2nd announcement.

To apply, click [HERE](#)

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 IS HIRING 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 Specialist 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.



The poster features the AeroStar Avion Institute logo at the top. Below it, the text reads: "WE WANT YOU! WE ARE HIRING". It lists three job openings: "SUMMER INSTRUCTOR" with a link to <https://rb.gy/xi1sb>, "HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER INSTRUCTOR" with a link to <https://rb.gy/mqtqf>, and "PROGRAM SPECIALIST" with a link to <https://rb.gy/y9wd0>. At the bottom, it says "SEND YOUR RESUME TO hr@avioninstitute.org".

APPLY NOW

Donate Today!

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!

CREDITS





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