



Welcome to AeroStar News

Dear friends, families, supporters, and partners of The AeroStar Avion Institute,

I hope this letter finds you in high spirits as we soar into summer. As the Founder & CEO of AeroStar, it gives me great pleasure to connect with you once again and share the latest happenings at our esteemed institution.

This June was filled with amazing events, activities, meetings, greetings and recognitions! First and foremost, I am delighted to celebrate all of our 2023 graduates in this issue. You will hear from AeroStars down through the years who have continued to soar against all the odds. I too, donned commencement regalia once again as I accepted an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Christian Humanities from the School of the Great Commission Bible College as well as a Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award from the Biden-Harris Administration!

Also included in this month's issue, our 5th Annual 2023 AeroSTEM Expo, held in partnership with the Illinois Institute of Technology, was an incredible success. The Expo showcased the immense talent and dedication of our students, who continue to push the boundaries of aerospace science and technology. In our upcoming newsletter, we will provide a comprehensive recap of this exceptional event, highlighting the remarkable achievements of our 2023 graduates. Their accomplishments serve as a testament to the unwavering commitment to excellence that we foster at AeroStar.

Happy Pride Month to our fellow aviators of the LGBTQ+ community. We recognize the National Gay Pilots Association and their contributions they make to the aviation industry. At AeroStar, diversity and inclusivity are integral to our ethos, and we celebrate the rich tapestry of backgrounds and experiences that make our institute truly exceptional.

With summer in full swing, we are excited to launch our Summer programs. Our dedicated team of instructors and staff are committed to providing a nurturing and inspiring learning environment, ensuring that every student reaches new heights of achievement. Looking forward, we anticipate a soaring summer filled with groundbreaking advancements and thrilling adventures. As we continue to shape the future of aviation, we remain grateful for your unwavering support and partnership. Together, we are cultivating a community of passionate aviators and visionaries, united in our pursuit of excellence.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your invaluable contributions to AeroStar Avion Institute. Your unwavering support fuels our progress and propels us towards new horizons. Together, let us soar to unprecedented heights and

shape a brighter future for aviation.

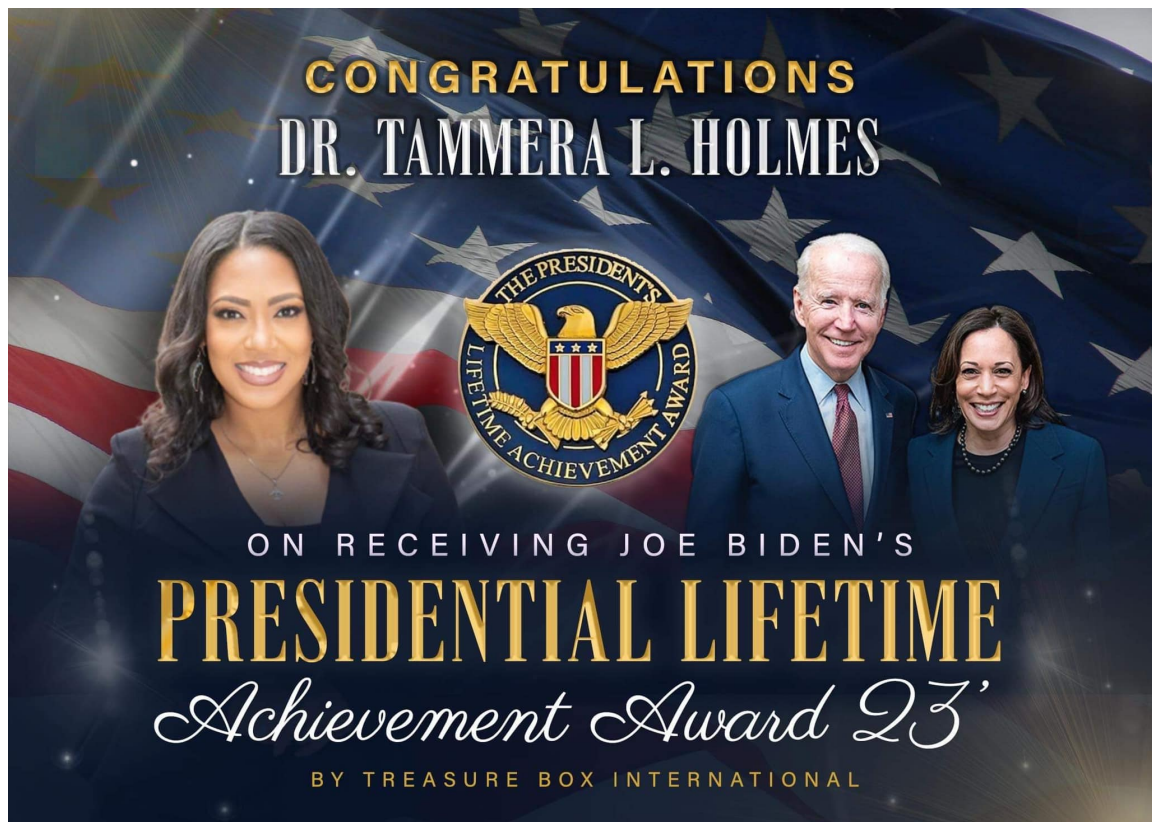
Wishing you all a remarkable summer ahead!

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 AKA Dr. Tam
President & CEO, AeroStar Consulting Corporation
Founder & CEO, AeroStar Avion Institute NFP

#BoeingInspires #GoodLeadstheWay #AeroStarAvion #WingstoDreams



**The 5th Annual AeroSTEM Expo
Gets Chicago Youth SOARING!**





The **AeroSTEM Expo** was an incredible success, captivating young minds and sparking their curiosity in the world of aerospace. The event was filled with awe-inspiring exhibits, interactive displays, and engaging workshops that transported children into the fascinating realm of STEM. From the thrilling flight simulators to the mesmerizing demonstrations of cutting-edge technologies, every aspect of the expo was designed to inspire and educate. Participants had the opportunity to learn from industry experts, fueling their passion for aviation and engineering. The AeroSTEM Expo truly left a lasting impact, nurturing the next generation of innovators and explorers.

A heartfelt thank you to all the vendors who made the AeroSTEM Expo a soaring success! We extend our deepest gratitude to our event cosponsor, **IIT** (Illinois Institute of Technology), for their unwavering support and commitment to fostering STEM education among young minds. We are incredibly grateful to **AAR** for sponsoring the luncheon and **Boeing** for their support that enabled us to bring together a diverse range of aerospace exhibits, interactive displays, and inspiring speakers, creating an unforgettable experience for the children in attendance. Together, we are shaping the next generation of innovators, dreamers, and trailblazers in the field of aerospace.







For our newsletter this month, we are taking the time to congratulate our graduates who mentored at AeroStar. We are thrilled by the academic accomplishments of these students, and we cannot wait to see what the future brings them!

Joshua Henderson



"The journey to achieve my degree in Engineering Technology was one I will never forget. When I first chose this major I wasn't so sure but I have always loved to challenge myself, and this field was more than enough to test my skills. Over these five years, I've learned so much and can say that I am well rounded for the next phase of my life in the workplace. I would have never thought I would make it to the end but if there's one thing to take from all this, it's to keep on moving ahead no matter how difficult it may be. The only one that stands a chance at holding you back

is yourself." - Joshua

Joshua enrolled in Eastern Illinois University, and has received a Bachelors in Science in Engineering Technology. Joshua plans to apply his engineering knowledge to the workplace. Congratulations Joshua!

Mercy Ájala



"My first interaction with Mrs. Holmes was when she came to visit for SIU women's weekend. Hearing her story and see how much she has accomplished and will accomplish has been very inspiring. I remember tears rolling down my face when she talked about her experience with pilot training, and reflecting on how I had a very similar experience. Listening to Mrs. Holmes pour words of encouragement and support into aspiring aviators has been amazing. I knew there and then that I wanted her to be my mentor. Mrs. Holmes checks in with me at least three times a month whether it be a text, a phone call or simply a picture. Seeing the work she's doing across the nation has be very motivating. I know without a doubt that Aerostar and Mrs. Holmes will continue to "get kids high"" - Mercy

Mercy has received a Bachelors in Aviation Management at the College of Health and Human Services, as well as a minor in airport planning and management. Congratulations Mercy!

Mya Coley



When Mya Coley was introduced to Aerostar, she was unsure on her path in aviation. Aerostar inspired her to act and pursue her dream of becoming a pilot. Mya has gained a second family and amazing mentors that help guide and encourage her along her path of being a professional pilot.

Mya Coley is a recent graduate of Lewis University with a Master of Science in transportation and aviation with a concentration in safety. Mya works full-time as an aviation operation coordinator for a fortune 100 corporate aviation department. Mya is a Certified Flight Instructor (CFI/I), who is actively working on her Multi-engine Instructor Certificate and first type rating.

Joseph Karriem



Joseph began his collegiate studies at Lewis University in August 2017. He asked his mother if he could attend Lewis when he was 13. Beginning at age 9, Joseph was mentored by Duane Hayden, a Lewis University graduate, current board of trustee member, retired USAF IL Air National Guard Colonel, and Chicago Tuskegee Airmen chapter leader. He attended his first ACE camp at 13, held at Lewis, sponsored by the Chicago Tuskegee Airmen. Joseph earned his private pilot license through Tuskegee Next's inaugural summer flight training program on August 5, 2015. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Aviation Administration at Lewis University on Saturday May 6, 2023.

He received wise advice from many who cared about his future. One of those mentors was Tammera Holmes, AeroStar CEO and Avion Institute founder. One Sunday after leaving the Chicago Air & Water Show under the Boeing Hospitality Tent with his mom, Tammera told him that God might take him in directions along his journey that he would not see coming nor anticipate. She encouraged him to trust God, to stay the course, to stay focused. His career goal is to become a corporate pilot. He fell in love with aviation after he sat in front of a flight simulator for the first time at a Boeing Family Day event in August 2007.

Joseph is recently employed as a line service technician with Atlantic Aviation FBO at the Chicago Executive Airport in Wheeling, IL, a position that he actively sought. His duties include fueling, moving and servicing aircrafts, and serving the needs of private and business aircraft clients. He is super excited to be a college graduate and to continue working towards his aviation career next steps!

Eddie Zhou



"My story as an AeroStar began back in 2021. Back then, I had an interest in STEM and especially aviation, but I didn't really find my direction yet. AeroStar programs helped me discover my passion and supplemented my aerospace education. My father also thought very highly of the program and its people. I attended almost every seasonal program, and met many wonderful people along the way, like Mr. J, Mrs. O, Mrs. TJ, and especially Mrs. Holmes. I ultimately wound up with several mentors whom I could ask for advice and guidance. My most memorable experience from that year was my first time at OshKosh and the crazy aerobatics happening the whole time. Being an AeroStar has given me many valuable insights. I was able to experience and engage with things that my parents had only ever seen in news articles. From networking to tours to several once-in-a-lifetime experiences and even opportunities to give back to the community, I'm truly proud to have been a part of the program - to be an AeroStar." - Eddie

Ashanti Mallit



"I'm Ashanti Mallit and I'm on my way to become a professional commercial airline pilot. Initially my aspirations were not as big and bold as they are now. However, one summer in 2019 dramatically changed my path for the better when I was introduced to Tamera Holmes. Moreso, she introduced herself to me after finding out I had an interest in aviation. After that, there's so much to say I'd fill an entire page. From going up north for Oshkosh to exploring O'Hare led by United and American Airlines, I've been afforded opportunity after opportunity to immerse myself in the aviation community and learn from people with ample experiences to share. One place that really facilitated my growth in aviation, and continues to, was the EAA flight rallies. The volunteers are retired pilots, many who'd seen the early days of aviation. They taught me many helpful things during our time together in the sky. They gave me confidence in my abilities in less than perfect conditions. All in all, I'm thankful for everything I've been given and everything I've achieved so far, and I'm only getting started." - Ashanti

Dr. Tam



On The Radar

Aerostar Celebrates Pride Month



NGPA

Over thirty years ago a handful of gay pilots discreetly gathered in Provincetown, Massachusetts. They coordinated their meeting by responding to an ad and

agreeing to wear an aviation themed t-shirt in order to identify each other. Anonymity was maintained by not using any last names since they risked losing their jobs or dishonorable discharge from the military for being gay. This was the first NGPA event. It's from these humble beginnings that a global movement was born.

Aerostar is proud to acknowledge the month of June as Pride Month, which celebrates LGBTQ history and historical figures. Pride Month coincides with our passion to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion.

We would like to celebrate this occasion by giving a spotlight to the National Gay Pilots Association (NGPA). Established in 1990, the NGPA is the largest LGBTQ aviation organization in the globe. The NGPA has done wonders for introducing queer people into aviation, and forging a community for LGBTQ pilots and engineers. The NGPA has multiple scholarships, community events, and valuable resources specifically tailored for members of the LGBTQ community.

Follow the link below to learn more.

[Click HERE](#)

Meet the Father-Son Duo of United Airlines



Capt. Luis "Louie" Castillo got the amazing opportunity to offer his son—Luis Castillo Jr.—a job as a pilot for United Airlines. Luis never particularly wanted to follow in his father's footsteps, but found himself at a crossroads after leaving the military. After falling in love with aviation, Luis contacted his father, who has been a pilot for United Airlines since the late 1990s. After years of hard work and mentorship, Luis and Louie fly together as United Airlines' first father-son duo.

AeroStar WINS \$25K Award at Clayco's Juneteenth Celebration



June 19th is Juneteenth, which celebrates one of the most significant days in African-American history. Juneteenth celebrates the emancipation of African-Americans from slavery. This emancipation was signed in 1865.

Understanding the magnitude of this holiday is integral in appreciating the achievements African Americans have made in the present day. There would be no AeroStar, or any Black people in this space, if it weren't for the brave African-American spirits that fought for freedom and equality.

On Juneteenth--and every day of the year-- let us stand together as a united force, committed to dismantling racial barriers, fostering understanding, and cultivating a more equitable society. We encourage our readers to reflect on the significance of this day, and to take action to promote justice and equality.

Thank you to Clayco for supporting community champions and honoring our history!

For more information about Juneteenth, follow the link below.

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 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](#)

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

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