



Welcome to AeroStar News

Things Are Heating Up!

Dear AAI Family, Friends and Supporters,

I hope this message finds you all well, staying cool, and energized. As we find ourselves amid a record-breaking sweltering July, I want to share some reflections about the current state of our world - both environmentally and in the workplace. The title of this month's newsletter, "Things are Heating Up," encapsulates the themes I wish to explore: the impact of global warming and the increasing challenge of workforce shortages in America.

Across the USA, we are experiencing soaring temperatures, breaking records year after year. It is a glaring signal of a global phenomenon: climate change. The temperature changes we're witnessing are a result of centuries-long actions and their environmental consequences, which until recently, largely went unaddressed. Our world is now confronting these ramifications, forcing us to rethink our habits and behaviors to course-correct for a healthier planet.



An intriguing parallel exists between these climate trends and the current workforce situation in our country. For decades, America's labor market has experienced a slow-burning issue - the approaching wave of baby boomer retirements and an insufficient pipeline of skilled workers to fill the impending gaps. This workforce shortage, much like the rising temperatures, was predictable, yet not enough action was taken to mitigate its impact.

In many ways, this reflects a convergence of actions and consequences that went unaddressed for too long. Just as we are now grappling with the impacts of climate change due to years of neglect, we are similarly contending with a critical labor shortage as a result of inadequate attention to skilled training and workforce planning.

Here at The AeroStar Avion Institute, we understand that these are not issues to be

ignored or dismissed. We need to take prompt, proactive steps to ensure that our workforce remains resilient and adaptable, just as we must play our part in the broader fight against climate change. As a company, we're committed to investing in the training and development of our employees to ensure we're prepared for the future of work. We're dedicated to creating sustainable solutions and contributing positively to our environment.

As Founder & CEO, I implore each of you to think about what role you can play, both in the future of our industry and in our global community. Whether it's taking the initiative to upskill in your field or making daily choices that reduce your carbon footprint, remember that each effort counts and, collectively, we can make a significant impact. It's not too late!

I have faith in the strength and resolve of our AAI family, friends and supporters. As a nation, we've seen before how capable we are of rising to challenges, and I'm confident we will meet these head-on with the same determination and grace.

Stay cool, stay safe, and remember, we're in this together. Here's to a successful and productive July!

Best regards,

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

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

#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.





Aerostar Lands in OshKosh!



For the last week of July, AeroStar took a trip to another part of the Midwest to attend the EAA AirVenture OshKosh convention via Southwest. This was an incredibly fun experience for students who belong to AeroStar's Advanced Apprenticeship Program. In OshKosh, the students were entertained with various attractions including museums, aircraft rides, job fairs, and a drive-in theater. EAA AirVenture is one of the most popular aviation conventions of the year, and we would like to extend all thanks to Southwest Airlines for sponsoring us on this trip. This also marked the end for summer activities for our students, but this program did wonders for expanding their curiosity about aviation and aerospace.

"Being a student in Aerostars has given me the amazing opportunity to meet engineers in NASA and pilots in Oshkosh. Because of them and what I learned from Aerostar, I am a lot more prepared for my future in engineering than I was before. Thank you for the life changing opportunity" - Maggie Sawyer

"Having the opportunity to be a part of this program has been very inspiring. I already knew I had an interest in aviation, but this program gave me a passion for it, especially with the trips we took to Bee Branch library and Oshkosh. Honestly this program went by too fast!" - Ivette Matala

"Being a student in the Aerostar Aviation Apprenticeship Program has been an incredible journey and I'm extremely grateful for it. The field trips to Bee Branch library and Oshkosh in 2023 were eye-opening experiences. I learned so much

through them and I truly can't wait to go back next year. The program not only sparked my passion for aviation and aerospace but also bolstered my career within the aerospace engineering industry. Thank you for this life-changing opportunity, I will forever be grateful.” - Sofia Martinez

*“Being a student in the Aerostar Advanced Apprenticeship program has been an incredible journey. The field trips to the Bee Branch library and Oshkosh in 2023 were eye-opening and memories I would never forget. The program sparked my passion for aviation and aerospace, and I am grateful for the skills and knowledge I gained. Thank you for this life-changing opportunity. I will definitely recommend your program to future teens who aspire to find out what they want to do in the future.”
- Kyle Hu*





On The Radar

Empowering Excellence with GIRLS LIKE US!



On July 20th, AeroStar was delighted to invite the 'Girls Like Me' group to the AeroStar Avion headquarters. 'Girls Like Me' is a Chicago-based non-profit organization that seeks to empower African-American girls. The girls participated in various activities and games—including an airplane simulator—and got to speak with Ms. Holmes about her career. AeroStar's mission statement has always been to uplift Black and Brown youth and inspire them to dream big. Having the opportunity to speak with the girls and give them career advice and affirmations were a treat. We would like to thank GLMPI Program Director Theresa Y. Robinson for helping us orchestrate this event!

To learn more about the 'Girls Like Us' organization, follow the link below.



[Click HERE](#)

FAA Launches Commercial Human Spaceflight Occupant Safety Rulemaking Committee



The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is launching a rulemaking committee to examine the development and cost of possible future regulations for commercial

human spaceflight occupant safety. The FAA is taking this action due to the increase in commercial space activities and the impending end of the Congressional prohibition on commercial human spaceflight regulations in October 2023. In addition to this rulemaking committee, the FAA is updating its recommended practices for commercial human spaceflight occupant safety, working with various organizations to develop voluntary consensus standard and conducting or facilitating human spaceflight research.

[Read the Full Article Here](#)

Meet the Armless Pilot Who Proves Disability Isn't Inability



Last week, our students were able to meet a pilot who is absolutely extraordinary. Her name is Jessica Cox, and she was born with no limbs. Despite her disability, Cox has excelled in the aviation field and works as a motivational speaker. After viewing her documentary, the students were allowed to practice on the Impossible Airplane and its flight simulator. The Impossible Airplane is completely controlled via the user's feet. We are delighted by the response to this demonstration, and were very lucky to get coverage from local news such as [Fox 32 Chicago](#) and the [Chicago Sun Times](#). We cannot thank Mrs. Cox enough for taking time out of her busy schedule to speak with our students and giving them a day to remember!

To learn more about Mrs. Cox, follow the link below.



[Click HERE](#)

Student Opportunities

Southwest® Careers

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.*](#)
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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!](#)

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