



## Welcome to AeroStar News

### Things Are Heating Up!

Dear AeroStar Friends and Family,

As we bid farewell to another bustling month, and headed back to school, it is clear that things are indeed "heating up"—both metaphorically and literally—in the world of aviation. The August sun has been unrelenting, and so too have been the challenges that come with managing an aviation centered business during these times. As we navigate the turbulent skies, I want to share some important updates and insights on what we're doing to ensure the sustainability and growth of our passengers, staff, and the broader community.

**Staffing Shortages:** In recent months, staffing shortages in the industry have become an increasing concern. As travel demand rebounds post-pandemic, we're finding that our operations are stretched thin. It's a good problem to have from a business perspective, yet it places a significant burden on our team, who are doing more with less. This is the experience of many employers seeking to recruit and retain highly qualified aviation professionals.



To address this Aviation businesses are ramping up recruitment, offering incentives, and exploring partnerships with aviation schools and community organizations like the Avion Institute, to bring in new talent. We're committed to ensuring that speed doesn't compromise quality, as our primary responsibility remains to guarantee the safety and well-being of all those who entrust us with their education and training.

**Close Calls & Aviation Safety:** The industry has also witnessed a worrying uptick in near-miss incidents and other operational challenges. These occurrences are not only a

concern for us but also for the aviation sector at large. They serve as a stark reminder that safety must always be our paramount focus.

In response to increased scrutiny on aviation safety and training, we're doubling down on initiatives to train the best and reinforcing strict adherence to protocols. My personal safety committee has me reviewing incidents to identify systemic issues and recommend actionable solutions. We're also collaborating with think tanks, policy makers, corporations and other industry stakeholders to share best practices and collectively raise the bar on safety.

A Path Forward: Upskilling, Reskilling, and Community Engagement: But it's not all challenges and hurdles; AeroStar has had a strategy for the future for over a decade, that addresses these issues and more, and builds upon our legacy of excellence. We believe that the key to long-term sustainability is to invest in our youth, young professionals and the communities we serve. To that end, we are partnering with our sponsors to curate pioneering innovative workforce strategies, such as:

1. **Reskilling Programs:** We're launching initiatives to provide our current employees with additional training in specialized areas, making them more versatile and valuable team members.
2. **Upskilling Initiatives:** By offering advanced courses in the latest aviation technologies and protocols, we're preparing our team to meet future challenges head-on.
3. **School-to-Work Programs:** In collaboration with educational institutions, we're creating a pipeline of talent that benefits both the students and the industry.
4. **Community Engagement:** Last but not least, we're rolling out more community programs and events focused on aerospace education, safety and career opportunities in the sector, thereby raising awareness and attracting new talent.

Through these combined efforts, we aim to not only help alleviate the current staffing shortages but also create a resilient, well-equipped workforce capable of meeting tomorrow's challenges.

While the past months have shown us that there's a lot of work to be done, it has also shown us the incredible resilience and dedication of AeroStar and our partners. It's a community effort, and each one of you plays a crucial role in making the Avion Institute the best it can be. Together, we'll not only weather these challenges but emerge stronger, safer, and more innovative than ever.

In this newsletter, you will read about our super safe and soaring summer programs, our incredible take off in Pokrah Nepal, a testimony from one of our students, and a troubling update about the low staff shortage that has gripped the aviation industry. I'm also pleased to announce that the fall program registration has opened, and you will hear more about the exciting internships and scholarships that are available to students.

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](mailto:Tholmes@aerostarcorp.com) for branded sponsorship opportunities.**

Thank you for Giving Wings to Dreams

#BoeingInspires #GoodLeadstheWay #AeroStarAvion #WingstoDreams

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**AeroStar Takes off in Nepal**



AeroStar Avion Institute has teamed up with UniCoN to pioneer the Aviation Education project for the first time in Pokhara, Nepal. This visionary project is being executed in close coordination with Pokhara International Airport and has secured the endorsement of the education department of Pokhara Metropolitan City. The primary goal of this initiative is to cultivate aviation awareness and education among students attending public schools in Pokhara. The project's inaugural phase focuses on two prestigious institutions: Kalika Secondary School and Siddha Secondary School. In Nepal, students from grades 8 and 9 are the targeted beneficiaries of this enlightening endeavor. Beyond simply introducing these young learners to the intricate world of aviation, the initiative is also forging a robust link between academic theories and their practical applications in the real world.

This hands-on approach is aimed at instilling a sense of relevance and excitement within the students' educational journey. This partnership significantly bolsters the project's prospects for seamless execution and impactful results. By tapping into the our resources, the project gains the momentum required to foster an environment of aviation education excellence.

(Writing Credit: Binod Neupane, Executive Director of UniCoN)









If you would like to donate to UniCoN Nepal Fundraiser, [click here](#) or scan the QR code below.



## AeroStars In Action Christian AIMS HIGH



(Above: Christian in 5th Grade - AeroStars Aviation Exploration Program 2017)



"During a coaching call with Ms. Holmes, I was introduced to the United States Air Force Aim High Flight Academy. A three week program at various colleges across the US that seeks to get students their first 15 flight hours as well as the chance to actually solo, all for **FREE**. I decided to apply and while certain circumstances regarding my application process were less than ideal, it all paid off with AeroStar advocating for me, when I was notified on Christmas eve that I was selected to attend. I left for Bakersfield, California in late June of this year where I would be based at the California Aeronautical University. I would spend the next few weeks making multiple friends and receiving college level flight training. While some days were harder than others, leaving me feeling like maybe I wasn't cut out to be a pilot, I stayed focused and each day improved my flying until eventually the day came where my CFI signed my logbook endorsing me to solo. The entire program is a blessing to many of us who would have never gotten a chance like this otherwise. The aviation industry is one with so many financial and cultural barriers that it is important to jump at all the opportunities you can. I thank Ms Holmes and Aerostars for introducing me to Aim High because I know that my path to a pilot's license would look much much different without it." - Christian Copeland (6 Year AeroStar).



Christian in a private meeting with United Airlines President Brett Hart



(Above: Christian with his flight instructor at California Aeronautical University after his first solo flight!)

*"Upon my return from Aim High, I had the opportunity to visit United Airlines at the Willis Tower and have a sit down meeting with United Airlines president Brett Hart. During my meeting with Mr. Hart, we talked about the industry, the future of United, and my future as a young black aviator and what my next steps should be on my journey to the cockpit. In addition Mr Hart also took note that I had a background interest in the operational side of the airline industry such as route planning and network operations and so during the tour he gave me of the headquarters he actually gave me the opportunity to meet Mr. Toby Enqvist, the COO of the company. Overall it was a wonderful and very informative very positive experience. It is experiences like these that remind me what this is all about and keep me determined to keep going on the road to becoming one of America's next black pilots." - Copeland*

## On The Radar

**Low staffing, more close calls:  
FAA responds to increased  
scrutiny on aviation safety**



With headline-grabbing close calls and a recent New York Times [investigation](#), aviation safety has been in the spotlight for months. According to Federal Aviation Administration data, near-miss accidents where planes nearly hit each other have increased nearly 25% in the last decade, with about 300 such accidents in the most recent 12-month period for which reports are available.

[Read the Full Article Here](#)

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## Chicago's MRO Workforce Pipeline Celebrates First Milestone (Congratulations Tyreq!)





The **Aviation Institute of Maintenance** has graduated its first class of students! Due to the worker shortage all across the country, major airlines such as American and United Airlines are offering these students extremely high salaries. The students will also get the opportunity to have a guaranteed interview with the airlines. Among the graduating class was Tyreq Brandy, an alum of **AeroStar Avion Institute**. We are so proud of Tyreq and look forward to his career after graduation!

[Click HERE](#) to read the article

**Student Opportunities**

# Fall Program



**LET'S FLY INTO THE FALL!!**



**DATE**  
**SEPT 30TH -DEC 2ND**  
**WHEN:**  
**9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.**



**AVAILABLE CLASSES**  
**INCLUDE**

- 5TH-8TH GRADE AVIATION
- 9TH-12TH GRADE AVIATION
- PARTS OF THE PLANE
- AND MORE!

**OLIVE HARVEY COLLEGE**  
**10001 S. WOODLAWN AVENUE - TDL BUILDING,**  
**CHICAGO, IL 60628**



**SCAN HERE TO REGISTER!**



*SCAN ME*

Register Now!

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**INTERNSHIPS | SCHOLARSHIPS | JOBS**

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- **Girls in Aviation Day**

Southwest Airlines is proud to join Women in Aviation to celebrate the ninth annual Girls in Aviation Day (GIAD)! If you have a student interested in meeting incredible role models, learning more about careers in aviation, or just attending for a day of new experiences and fun activities, please visit the Women in Aviation website linked in the button below to find a GIAD event near you. Southwest Employees will attend 10+ events around the country, too.

[Click HERE for more information](#)

- **Career Exploration Guide**

Pilots, Flight Attendants, and Ramp Agents, oh my! We recently updated our Career Exploration guide to provide even more resources for students about how they can take their next step toward a career in aviation.

[Click HERE for more information](#)

- **Job Chat with Southwest Technology Employees**

Do you know a high school student unsure of what to do after graduation? During this 30-minute live webinar, students will learn how Technology plays a key role in shaping and guiding the strategic future of our airline as well as career opportunities within that department. It'll be a great introduction to working in Technology and to the wide variety of careers in aviation.

Date: Thursday, September 28, at 11 a.m. or 6 p.m. CT

Please register for either the morning or evening session as the material will be the same. Educators, parents, and students are all welcome.

[Click HERE for more information](#)



- **Full-Time Job Opportunities for Graduated Seniors**

Throughout 2023, Southwest has had almost 1,000 recent high school graduates apply for roles at our airports. Roles often open and close quickly, so make sure interested students don't wait! Entry-level jobs immediately after high school include our Ramp Agent, Material Specialist, and Appearance Tech roles, among others.

[Click HERE](#) for more information

AFTER SCHOOL **matters**®

Programs begin September 25.



**Teens, apply for fall programs today!**

**FALL APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!**

Earn money | Learn new skills | Make friends

Apply to a **FREE** After School Matters program this fall!

Beat the rush - interviews start as early as August 28!

**APPLY NOW:** Check out the **hundreds of ASM programs across the city** in music production, Latin dance, coding, community organizing, and so much more!

**ASM programs empower you to:**

Tap into your creativity

Explore your passions

Learn new skills

Make friends

Earn money

Current Chicago Public High School students who are Chicago residents are eligible. Some spots are available to non-CPS high school students.

[Click HERE](#) to apply



This 2024 Boeing internship program offers a fantastic chance for candidates to gain hands-on experience, work on impactful projects, and learn from seasoned professionals. We believe your network could include potential candidates who would greatly benefit from and contribute to this program.

**Internship Details:**

- Position: Boeing Summer 2024 Internship Program - Government Operations
- Location: Arlington, VA
- Application Deadline: October 23, 2023

[Click HERE to apply](#)



Chicago Leading Edge is a Chicago-based nonprofit organization that is dedicated to the career pursuits of women in aviation. Chicago Leading Edge provides networking, education, and mentoring opportunities for girls and women. This year, the organization will be giving out four \$1,500 awards:

- 2- \$1,500 Flight Training**
- 1- \$1,500 Maintenance**
- 1- \$1,500 School Tuition**

You must be a member of WAI and Chicago's Leading edge chapter by October 1, 2023. Applications are attached and are due by October 12, 2023. Don't forget to check out all the scholarships offered by Women in Aviation International on their website. You

can apply for two with Chicago's Leading edge and win one *AND* apply for three and win one from National as well.

For more information, contact [Chicagosleadingedge@gmail.com](mailto:Chicagosleadingedge@gmail.com) and include "Scholarship" in subject line.

For more information about WAI, 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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