



Welcome to AeroStar News

Soaring into a Season of Gratitude

Dear AeroStar Family, Friends and Supporters,

As the year draws to a close and we approach the festive holiday season, I want to take this opportunity to extend my warmest wishes to you and your loved ones. This season is a time of reflection, gratitude, and celebration, and I am immensely grateful for the dedication and spirit that each one of you brings to our Organization.

November is a significant month for us to acknowledge and honor the rich history and contributions of Native Americans. Native American Awareness Month reminds us of the importance of respecting and learning from diverse cultures and histories that enrich our nation's tapestry. We are committed to embracing this diversity in our Organization's culture and practices.



This month, we also pay tribute to our brave veterans, particularly those who have served in aviation capacities. Their courage, sacrifice, and commitment to our country's safety and freedom are an inspiration to us all. To our veterans within the aviation community and beyond, we owe you our deepest gratitude and respect.

As we reflect on the past year, I want to express my sincere thanks for your generous support and contributions to the AeroStar Avion Institute. Your commitment has been a key factor in our sustained growth and success.

In the spirit of giving, I encourage you to consider making a year-end tax-deductible contribution. Your generosity will not only benefit our programs, but also contribute

to the broader community we serve. Let us continue to work together to make a positive impact in the world.

Wishing you a joyous start to the Holiday Season.

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 promotional sponsorship or grant opportunities.

Thank you for Giving Wings to Dreams. Wishing you a joyous holiday season.

With gratitude,

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

#BoeingInspires #GoodLeadstheWay #AeroStarAvion #WingstoDreams

Native American Heritage



Bessie Coleman

Bessie Coleman, born on January 26, 1892, in Atlanta, Texas, was a pioneering aviator who defied racial and gender barriers to become the first African American and Native-American woman to hold a pilot's license. Growing up in a world where opportunities for women of color, were severely limited, Coleman displayed an early determination to overcome these obstacles.

Unable to find flight training in the United States due to racial discrimination, Coleman traveled to France in 1920 to pursue her dream of becoming a pilot. There, she attended the Caudron Brothers' School of Aviation and earned her international pilot's license in

1921. Her achievement was groundbreaking, as she not only shattered racial and gender barriers but also became a symbol of inspiration for aspiring aviators.

Upon returning to the U.S., Bessie Coleman became a sensation, captivating audiences with her aerial acrobatics and daredevil maneuvers. She performed at airshows across the country, gaining popularity not only for her flying skills but also for her role as a trailblazer for African Americans in aviation.

For more information on Bessie, [click here](#)

AeroStar Honors Our Veterans this November



In honor of Veteran's Day, we pause to express our deepest gratitude to the brave men and women who have served and continue to serve our nation. Today, we honor the indomitable spirit, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment of our veterans, recognizing them as the backbone of our shared history and the guardians of our freedom.

As we pay tribute to all veterans, we reflect on the pivotal figures who have left an indelible mark on aviation history. Some important figures of our industry's history have flown under the radar due to past and present prejudices. We aim to rectify that by spotlighting the aviation veterans who paved the way for an inclusive industry for us all.



Hazel Ying Lee

Hazel Ying Lee, born on August 24, 1912, in Portland, Oregon, was a trailblazing aviator who became the first Chinese-American woman to fly for the U.S. military. In the 1930s, Lee's passion for aviation led her to join the Chinese Flying Club of Portland, where she honed her flying skills and earned her pilot's license.

Facing discrimination and limited opportunities in the U.S., Lee traveled to China in the late 1930s to support the Chinese Air Force in its fight against Japanese aggression. She flew for the Chinese Air Force as a civilian pilot, demonstrating her exceptional skill and dedication.

Upon the United States' entry into World War II, Lee returned to America and became part of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) program in 1943. As a WASP, she ferried military aircraft, towed targets for live anti-aircraft gunnery practice, and performed various other flight duties to free male pilots for combat missions.

For more information on Hazel, [click here](#)



Melvin Williams Jr.

Melvin Williams, Jr., a New Jersey native, enlisted in the Coast Guard during the Vietnam War era, choosing it over the Navy after being inspired by a Coast Guard rescue. Facing challenges of integration and barriers as an African American, Williams started in the medical field, assisting in surgeries at sea.

Fate led him to aviation, where he faced hardships as one of the few African Americans in his role. Undeterred, he excelled, becoming the first African American chief in his rate and later achieving the rank of chief warrant officer (CWO2). Williams made significant contributions to water survival technology, developing the float strobe light. He received the Sikorsky Winged "S" Award in 1974 for rescues in Miami.

After retiring in 1989, he worked at the New Orleans VA and later joined the Overton Brooks VA Medical Center in Shreveport. Williams appreciates the center's role in informing him about his health issues and notes its progress. His remarkable military career broke barriers and paved the way for African Americans in Coast Guard aviation.

For more information on Melvin, click [here](#)



Marisol Chalas

Marisol A. Chalas, a soldier in the Massachusetts National Guard, achieved a groundbreaking milestone as the first Latina in the entire National Guard to pilot a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter. Born in the Dominican Republic, Chalas joined her parents in Boston in 1982, learning early on the values of hard work and determination from them.

She enlisted in the Massachusetts National Guard in 1990, later becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen and earning her commission as a second lieutenant in the aviation branch. Chalas excelled in her military career, graduating as one of the top students at the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence. Her educational achievements include a B.S. in marine engineering, an MBA, and an M.S. in legislative affairs. In 2008, she transferred from the Massachusetts National Guard to the U.S. Army Reserve, where she continues to serve. Outside the military, Chalas has worked with companies like General Electric and Booz Allen Hamilton.

In a 2022 interview with LatinTRENDS, Chalas emphasized the significance of Hispanic heritage, highlighting the sacrifices and contributions of Hispanic Americans. She stressed the strength that comes from diversity and called for a commitment to equality.

For more information on Marisol, click [here](#)

Army Veteran's New Bakery to Bring Sweet Treats to Harper Court



Strugglebeard Bakery, founded by former AeroStar Team Member and Army veteran Quinton McNair, is set to open its first storefront in Hyde Park's upscale Harper Court, Chicago, on September 23. McNair's baking journey, sparked during the pandemic, evolved from initial failures to a therapeutic and fulfilling endeavor, aiding his mental health. Specializing in gourmet cookies, muffins, quick breads, and cakes, the bakery introduces unique treats, with McNair's favorite being the "Chief Bartley" salted caramel oatmeal cookie. Beyond sweet treats, McNair plans to engage with the community through the BAKE program, teaching young men baking skills alongside lessons in sexual assault prevention, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship.

During his time in the army, Quinton was a helicopter mechanic and crew chief. Quinton served with Team Aerostar as an HR Specialist. We are so thrilled to see him soar in his new endeavors! Read the full article [here](#).

Student Opportunities

TUSKEGEE NEXT

2024 SUMMER PROGRAMS



APPLICATION WORKSHOP

December 4th | 7 pm - 8 pm CST | Zoom Meeting ID: 458 507 4536

Learn more about the Summer Aviation Program, the application process, and a Q&A with Program Leaders and Alumni.

For questions, please contact aattawia@tuskegeenext.org

Summer Aviation Program

Interested in earning your private pilot and drone license free of charge?

- Earn your private pilot and drone license, free of charge!
- A full-time, residential program in the Chicago area.
- Daily classes include classroom, simulators, flight training, and life skills development courses.

Requirements

- Ages 18-20, completed Jr. year of high school
- Must hold a minimum 2.75 GPA
- Additional consideration will be given to students that have completed advanced or college-level courses

Fellowship Program

Interested in furthering your aviation education?

- An immersive experience to help you prepare for professional and personal opportunities.
- Daily programs include classroom training, simulators, flight training, and life skills courses.
- Mentor Summer Aviation Program cadets
- Opportunity for a Johnson & Johnson externship

Requirements

- Ages 21-25
- Additional consideration will be given to students that have completed advanced or college-level courses

Apply @ tuskegeenext.org/tuskegee-next-apply

Deadline: December 31st

Tuskegee NEXT is a 501(c)(3), that seeks to transform the lives of underrepresented youth through aviation education, life skills training, and career path opportunities, so they can transform their communities.



@tuskegeenext



Tuskegee NEXT



Tuskegee NEXT Foundation

INTERNSHIPS | SCHOLARSHIPS | JOBS

NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL-INTELLIGENCE AGENCY GEO-SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

About GEO-Scholarship Program

The GEO-Scholarship targets graduating high school seniors and degree seeking college students with less than 45 credits that are majoring in areas of study NGA deems as a critical need and are typically difficult to recruit. NGA offers tuition payment, a book stipend, and a paid summer internship for all scholars. Some scholars may also qualify for a travel stipend. All selected scholars are required to commit to a 1.5-year continuing service agreement post-graduation. This agreement states for every year NGA pays tuition, that scholar will commit 1.5-years of service post-graduation.

Awardees will onboard with NGA in August 2024, attend school during the Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 semesters, and return to NGA for their summer internship in summer 2025.

About the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

NGA is a unique combination of intelligence agency and combat support agency. It is the world leader in timely, relevant, accurate and actionable Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT). NGA enables the U.S. intelligence community and the Department of Defense (DOD) to fulfill the President's national security priorities to protect the nation. NGA also anticipates its partners' future needs and advances the GEOINT discipline to meet them. To learn more about NGA and opportunities, please visit the NGA website.

Areas of Study

NGA is looking to recruit scholars majoring in the following areas of study (but not limited to):

- Artificial Intelligence / Machine Learning / Computer Vision
- Cartography
- Coding & Scripting Language
- Computer Programming/Science
- Criminal Justice
- Cybersecurity
- Data Analytics, Data Science, Data/System Engineering
- Data & Visualization
- Database Maintenance / Management
- Earth/Planetary Systems Science
- Engineering (any)
- Geodesy/Geomatics/Geophysics
- Geography
- GIS
- Homeland Security
- Image/Signal Processing
- Imagery Science
- IT- Network Operations
- Intelligence and National Security Studies
- Mathematics / Statistics
- Physical/Spectral Sciences
- Regional Studies
- Remote Sensing
- Software Development

SEE YOURSELF AT NGA? APPLY AT <https://careers.nga.mil/>

NGA-U-2022-02114

Apply for **National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency** High School Scholarships today!

The High School Internship Program is for high school students, age 16 or older, that are looking for real world experience.

High School Interns perform a variety of entry-level functions and tasks in support of the organization to which they are assigned. They are given a work project that involves problem identification, analysis, and resolution. Specific duties may include the preparation and presentation of briefings directly related to work assigned.

Apply Now!

Happy Holidays from Aerostar to You!



As we approach the close of another remarkable year, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for all the unwavering support and partnership. In the spirit of the season, we extend warm wishes for a joyous holiday season and a New Year filled with success and fulfillment.

As we reflect on the past and look forward to the future, we are reminded of the strength of our community and the positive impact we can create together.

May this upcoming holiday season bring you moments of joy, laughter, and connection with your loved ones. May the New Year usher in new opportunities, growth, and prosperity for each of you.

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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