



Welcome to AeroStar News

Launching Into New Horizons

Dear AAI Families, Friends & Supporters,

As we enter the expanse of a new year, I am thrilled to share the theme of this year "Launching into New Horizons," which encapsulates our aspirations and the trajectory we envision for our organization.

2023 was a remarkable year for us, boasting significant achievements and generous support from our donors and partners. Your belief in our mission has been the wind beneath our wings, propelling us to reach new heights. I extend my deepest gratitude for your unwavering support and belief in our vision to change the face of aviation, one child at a time.

As we turn the page to 2024, I am excited to share some transformative changes within our company:



1. New Leadership: As many of you know, I have been succession planning for the past four years and the long term vision was never for me to remain the Mission Specialist forever, but to pass the torch when the time came. We are on that process now and are building the crew that will send us into the AeroVerse and beyond! We have welcomed aboard visionary leaders who bring a wealth of passion, experience and innovative thinking. Their expertise will be instrumental in guiding our company towards groundbreaking developments in aviation and aerospace education.

2. Expanding Our Team: Recognizing the importance of fresh perspectives and expertise, we have enriched our staff with talented individuals from diverse backgrounds. Their unique skills and ideas are vital to our growth and success and so are YOURS. **We are currently looking for Administrative support, a Volunteer Coordinator, Social Media Manager, Research Students, CRM Database Manager and a Marketing Coordinator. Interested? Email your resume to HR@avioninstitute.org.**

3. Forming New Partnerships: In our journey to explore new horizons, collaboration is key. We are forging new partnerships with leading organizations and institutions that share our passion for aerospace innovation. These collaborations

will open doors to new possibilities and opportunities.

4. Embracing New Opportunities: The aerospace sector is evolving rapidly, presenting new challenges and opportunities. We are poised to seize these opportunities, driven by our commitment to innovation and excellence. **For corporate sponsorship, event sponsorships, In-Kind contributions of professional services, and Advisory Board service, please email tholmes@aerostarcorp.com**

As we set our sights on these exciting developments, we also invite new collaborators and partners to join us in this journey. Your support and collaboration can help us make significant strides. Together, we can reach unprecedented heights and make a lasting impact in the lives of students and families through workforce opportunities in the regional and national aviation and aerospace sectors.

I look forward to an exhilarating and productive year ahead. Let us soar into these new horizons with ambition and determination, making 2024 a landmark year in our history.

Thank you once again for your continued support. Here's to a year of innovation, collaboration, and success!

Thank you for Giving Wings to Dreams.
With gratitude,

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

#BoeingInspires #GoodLeadstheWay #AeroStarAvion #WingstoDreams

AAI CEO Receives Chicago Bulls MLK Legacy Award





Tammera L. Holmes is Founder & CEO of The AeroStar Avion Institute, who has the vision to enhance, promote, and support the academic awareness of aviation and aeronautical career path opportunities for students, minority, and at-risk youth.

Tammera has been selected as a Bulls 2024 Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Honoree due to her commitment to inspiring economic opportunity and community investment for the youth of Chicago. The ceremony was held at the United Center on January 10th at center court during halftime. **This honor is accompanied by a \$10,000 donation from Advocate Health!**

"It was an absolute honor to be awarded a Martin Luther King Legacy Honoree Award courtesy of Advocate Health, as well as being invited to attend a Chicago Bulls game. Congratulations to the other recipients of the award: Janelle St. John, Jamyle Cannon, and Adeeb Borden. I created Aerostar as an answer to every obstacle that I faced as a young Black girl from outside of the West Side of Chicago. I was a very bad kid. I fought like clockwork. Like '3 o'clock, meet me in the parking lot.' Just very aggressive, very angry, very confrontational. I felt like a justice seeker. It was like if anybody ever done anybody wrong, it was my duty to set it straight - not knowing that I could use my words or have conversations or communicate. All I knew was aggression...

We grew up in poverty - no heat, no running water, no electricity. No food. So my mother would always find resources in the community and sign us up for free programming because it's hard to pay for kids to go anywhere. And one day she sent me and my siblings downtown, I thought we were going to the museum. I was pissed. We actually pulled up to Meigs Field, I didn't know it was an airport. And I saw all the Black guys with Tuskegee Airmen jackets on and World War II caps on. I'm like... "Where am I?" My curiosity was piqued. So we go up into the airplane and then the pilot asked me if I wanted to take control of the aircraft. And I said 'Absolutely.' And that day, I knew aviation not only changed my life but saved my life. Since then, I have made it my commitment to inspire economic opportunity and community investment for the youth of Chicago."

Source:@BullsCommunity on Instagram





Upcoming Events

SPRING PROGRAM



**DATE: FEB 10TH - APRIL 6TH
SATURDAY'S ONLY
9AM-1PM
COST \$50**

AVIATION & SPACE CAREER EXPLORATION

REGISTER NOW



**GRADES 5-8 & 9-12
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PROJECTS, GUEST SPEAKERS
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**OLIVE HARVEY COLLEGE
10001 S. WOODLAWN
NEW TDL BUILDING
CHICAGO, IL 60628**

Enroll Your AeroStar Student Now!

**AAI & DuSable Museum
Bring THE SPACE RACE to the South Side**



On Saturday February 17th, at 2:00pm CST The AeroStar Avion Institute and the DuSable Black History Museum and Education Center collaborate to bring this monumental documentary to the big screen right on the South Side of Chicago; home of dozens of Black aviation and space pioneers.

“The Space Race” weaves together the stories of Black astronauts seeking to break the bonds of social injustice to reach for the stars, including Guion Bluford, Ed Dwight and Charles Bolden among many others. Addressing the racial injustice within NASA across several decades, the film will follow these pioneers who fought to overcome not just the obstacles of their astronaut training but also the challenges that stemmed from the racial prejudice and discrimination present at the time. “The Space Race” will highlight how their perseverance challenged the definition of “the right stuff,” even when their stories were omitted from the history books.

Carolyn Bernstein, executive vice president of Documentary Films for National Geographic, said in a statement:

“It has been a pleasure to work with co-directors Lisa Cortés and Diego Hurtado de Mendoza, along with our friends at Kennedy/Marshall, to tell the inspiring, courageous stories of pioneering Black astronauts. We feel honored to give these trailblazers center stage in the narrative around U.S. space exploration.”

A film about connectivity, community, mentorship and the importance of trailblazers, “**The Space Race**” will be available exclusively on National Geographic Channels and Disney+.

FREE TICKETS



BLACK AVIATION EXCELLENCE

Join us for our 4th Annual
BAE Day
February 29, 2024
10:00am-12:30pm CST

A GLOBAL VIRTUAL EVENT



SPECIAL GUESTS
PANEL DISCUSSION
HEAR FROM AVIATION & AEROSPACE PROS
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4.6.24 AEROSTEM EXPO

WHERE AVIATION AND SPACE
MEETS
SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY
ENGINEERING AND MATH

ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Office of Community Affairs

The 6th Annual AeroSTEM Expo is back! The AeroStar Avion Institute in partnership with the Illinois Institute of Technology's Office of Community Affairs will be held at IIT's Herman Hall on **Saturday April 6th**. We will feature our innovate exposition of Chicago area aviation and STEM programs demonstrating and facilitating activities, a host of vendors from colleges, universities, industry employers, aviation and STEM training programs as well as youth serving community partners.

We are also looking forward to our most popular Minute Mentoring where students get one-on-one time with aviation professionals. And new this year, we are inviting parents, partners and supporters to the Scholarship Luncheon and join in the celebration of our young aviators! Tickets go on sale soon.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

GET READY!

To be a Vendor or Exhibitor Click [HERE](#)

To Volunteer Click [HERE](#)

On The Radar

AeroStar Teen Returns as Manager of Programs 10 Years Later!





We are beyond excited to welcome our very own Ms. Selena Berry as The AeroStar Avion Institute's new Program Manager. As a 14 year old student at the Air Force Academy High School, Selena joined our brand-new Aviation Exploration Apprenticeship after school program. Since childhood, Selena wanted to be a teacher, but it was during our program that she found a love for aviation and decided to pursue it as a career path. Selena continues to enroll in the AeroStar's aviation afterschool program all the way through her senior year. Selena was awarded a flight training scholarship with our partner Tuskegee NEXT and thereafter decided to attend at Lewis University to pursue her training as an aircraft mechanic with a bachelor degree in aviation administration. She received another scholarship from one of our corporate partners, Urban Intellectuals for Aircraft Maintenance training. Not only did she continue to excel academically, she returned to AeroStar's summer program as a lead instructor for several years!

This organization has given her the opportunity to blend her passions for education AND aviation! To her students, she has been an excellent role model, aviation instructor and mentor. She has become an ambassador for future aviators. She is a true tradesman, team player, and highly proficient at understanding the most complex aviation concepts and systems. There is no one more deserving than her. She's one of the most compassionate, impressive, dedicated and committed team members we have ever encountered. After two years in New York as an education professional, Selena returned to Chicago and recently graduated with her masters degree in Aviation And Transportation with a concentration in Safety and Management. She loves painting, music, and video games.

Axiom Space Launches Third Commercial Astronaut Mission



For the third time in three years, Axiom Space is chartering a private astronaut mission to the International Space Station. The four-member crew will spend about 14 days onboard the orbiting outpost conducting more than 30 experiments and participating in more than 50 outreach events.

Led by former NASA astronaut Michael López-Alegría, three European astronauts will experience their first flight to orbit as part of the Ax-3 mission. Before the crew launches onboard a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft atop a Falcon 9 rocket, get to know Commander Mike LA, Pilot Walter Villadei, Mission Specialist Alper Gezeravcı and Mission Specialist Marcus Wandt.

[Learn More!](#)

Aviation Enthusiast Helps Promote Education Opportunities with Aircraft Contribution



In addition to being a licensed pilot, Victor Croswell, MSgt USAF (ret.) is a certified airframe and powerplant mechanic. He is also a member of the Chicago Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen (CDCTAI); an organization whose mission is to perpetuate the historic legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen while encouraging and assisting youth in their pursuit of careers in the aviation and aerospace industries. Over the last 30 years as a member of CDCTAI, Croswell has personally provided over 250 introductory airplane rides to youth.

Since Mr. Croswell no longer actively pursues recreational flying, he has decided to contribute his airplane, a Piper Cherokee 140, to the Aviation Institute of Maintenance where he is a Senior Maintenance Instructor. He says that “the contribution of my plane to AIM guarantees that the aircraft will continue to serve as a tool to help the next generation come to know the freedom and joy of powered flight.” The Aviation Institute of Maintenance states that they help adult students gain the skills and attitudes necessary for a meaningful entry-level career position. “We strive to be responsive to the needs of our students, as well as businesses, industries, and government. We are committed to high academic standards in all of our curricular offerings, and we are dedicated to providing the services that support our students efforts to succeed.”

A Million Miles Away: A Great Biopic About The First Hispanic American Astronaut



Late last year, an autobiographical film based on the life and career of Jose M. Fernandez was released on Amazon Prime Video. The film is titled 'A Million Miles Away'. It tells the powerful immigrant story of Fernandez, who went from a field worker to an astronaut. Hernández applied to NASA multiple times before being selected as an astronaut candidate in 2004.

He flew on the Space Shuttle mission STS-128 in 2009, where he served as a mission specialist and operated the robotic arm of the shuttle. The mission was part of the assembly and maintenance of the International Space Station (ISS). José M. Hernández has become an inspirational figure, emphasizing the importance of

education and determination in achieving one's goals. After leaving NASA, he has been involved in various educational outreach programs, encouraging students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

[Learn More!](#)

Student Opportunities

INTERNSHIPS | SCHOLARSHIPS | JOBS



- **Aviation Technical Education Scholarships**

Do you know an aspiring aircraft mechanic or have an aviation maintenance program at your school? Choose Aerospace offers various aviation technical education scholarships for students, instructors, and schools. All scholarships are accepting applications through February 15, 2024.* (Please note: Eligible applicants must plan to attend, enroll, or teach in an aviation technical program. Only ATEC members, their instructors, and enrolled students are eligible to apply)

[Apply Now!](#)

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!

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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