



Welcome to AeroStar News

Celebrating Black Aviation History

Dear AAI Families, Friends & Supporters,

As we conclude the celebration of Black History Month this February, it's crucial to reflect on the rich history, achievements, and contributions of African Americans, especially in the fields of aviation and space exploration. This month has offered us a unique opportunity to honor the past, assess our present, and envision a future that is enriched by diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).

The Importance of DEI

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are not just moral imperatives; they are strategic advantages. Embracing DEI within our organization and the broader aviation industry leads to a multitude of benefits, including:

- **Innovation and Creativity:** Diverse teams bring a variety of perspectives, leading to innovative solutions and creative breakthroughs.
- **Enhanced Problem-Solving:** Studies show that diverse groups are better at solving complex problems, a critical advantage in the ever-evolving field of aviation.
- **Global Competitiveness:** By reflecting the diversity of the global population, we can better understand and meet the needs of international markets and communities.
- **Increased Employee Satisfaction and Retention:** A workplace that values all employees' contributions and fosters a sense of belonging is more likely to attract and retain top talent.



African Americans in Aviation and Space:

The contributions of African Americans to aviation and space exploration are profound and inspiring. Figures such as Bessie Coleman, the first African American woman to hold a pilot license; General Benjamin O. Davis Jr., leader of the Tuskegee Airmen; and Mae Jemison, the first African American woman in space,

have broken barriers and paved the way for future generations. These trailblazers have not only achieved personal milestones but have also contributed to the technological and social advancement of aviation and space exploration.

Afrofuturism and the Future of Aviation:

Afrofuturism—a cultural aesthetic that combines science fiction, history, and fantasy with Afrocentrism—offers a powerful lens through which we can envision the future of aviation. By imagining a future where African and African American innovators lead in creating advanced aerospace technologies and societies, we challenge current narratives and inspire a more diverse generation of scientists, engineers, and leaders.

The Future Absent DEI

Without a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, we risk a future where innovation is stifled, talent is overlooked, and opportunities are unequally distributed. An aviation industry that lacks diversity in its workforce and leadership is one that fails to reflect or serve the global community effectively. It is a future where the full potential of human creativity and collaboration is unrealized.

Expanding Our Team: Recognizing the importance of diverse perspectives and expertise, we are looking enriched our staff with talented individuals from diverse backgrounds. **We are currently looking for a Volunteer Coordinator, Social Media Manager, Research Students, CRM Database Manager and a Marketing Coordinator. Interested? Email your resume to HR@avioninstitute.org.**

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 AAI@avioninstitute.org**

Moving Forward Together: As we look to the future, let us commit to making DEI not just an initiative but a core part of our identity in the Aviation institute. Let's continue to celebrate the achievements of African Americans and all those who contribute to the rich tapestry of our industry. Together, we can create a more inclusive, equitable, and innovative future for aviation.

Thank you for joining me in this important reflection. Let us carry the lessons learned and the inspirations gained into our work, our communities, and our lives. And thank you for helping us Give Wings to Dreams.

With gratitude,

Tammera L. Holmes AKA Dr. Tam
Founder & Board Chairman, The AeroStar Avion Institute NFP

#BoeingInspires #GoodLeadstheWay #AeroStarAvion #WingstoDreams

Kicking Off Our Spring Programs!

This month, we had the opportunity to host three



special events for our students at AeroStar. These events expanded the students' imaginations and showed them a glimpse of what a career in aviation and aerospace looks like.

On February 10th, the spring AeroStar began on a high note with registration and introductions. The kids were given talks on what aviation is all about and the opportunities available for them in this vast industry. They had lessons with their instructors, and later, Dr. Holmes and Mr Binod Neupane from Nepal and our

international fellow from Cameroon, Blessing Mangi, also spoke to the kids. Dr Holmes orientated the kids about the importance of programs like the spring Aerostar and careers in aviation. At the same time, Mr Binold Neupane spoke about the aviation program that AAI is starting in Nepal, and Blessing talked about how she came about to be a physics teacher.

On February 17, our students began the day with a lesson on Aerodynamics and an overview of Black aviation history. On this day, the students were also visited by a Boeing representative. Later that day, the kids visited the DuSable Black History Museum to learn about the untold stories of Black pioneers in the aerospace industry through a movie screening of "The Space Race". This was a great movie that left many inspired. We highly recommend the film, which is currently streaming on Disney Plus.





February 24th was our third week of program activity for the spring AeroStar. This day was special because we got a visit from Leaders of Tomorrow and Jack and Jill. The day was packed with events. We began the day by welcoming our visitors and doing a walk-and-stop icebreaker exercise.

The kids then went into the classroom for a lesson on airplane anatomy while their parents were given a tour of Olive Harvey College.

After this, there was a break, and then it was time for some activities: the kids got to work on our flight simulators and tried to build airplane skeletons with spaghetti and marshmallows. They also got some real aviation career talk with one of our excellent instructors and then it was a day.



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
AVIATION, SPACE, CAREERS,
PROJECTS, GUEST SPEAKERS
FLIGHT SIMULATORS, FIELD TRIPS**

**OLIVE HARVEY COLLEGE
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NEW TDL BUILDING
CHICAGO, IL 60628**

Enroll Your AeroStar Student Now!



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](#)

REGISTER NOW

Colorado High School Student Leads CubeSat Project, Wins Future Leaders Award



CBS Colorado, in partnership with Chevron and the Colorado School of Mines, celebrates high school students excelling in STEM through the Future Leaders award, a \$1,000 prize given to six students yearly. Currently, the awardee is Caleb Woldemichael, a senior at DSST Montview High School in Denver. Woldemichael leads a student-led extracurricular that constructs CubeSats, small 10X10X10 centimeter cube satellites sent into the atmosphere to collect data. The CubeSat Project at DSST Montview, under his guidance, designs and builds these satellites, showcasing skills in CAD, coding, and 3D printing. Woldemichael reflects on the project's value in teaching resilience, problem-solving, and soft skills like teamwork and communication. In a significant milestone, the team launched a CubeSat from a weather balloon into the stratosphere, demonstrating their technical capabilities and real-world application of their skills.

[Learn More!](#)

Massive pilot shortage, plane issues affect Las Vegas and beyond



Recent months have witnessed a slew of challenges in air travel, including maintenance issues, design flaws in aircraft, and frequent delays and cancellations. Reports of close calls with commercial flights and a growing pilot shortage, exacerbated by retirements and training costs, add to the industry's woes. Allegiant Air pilots, among others, are advocating for better compensation. Addressing these issues is crucial for Las Vegas' tourism future, given its heavy reliance on air travel for visitors.

[Learn More!](#)

London is most exposed city in world to air pollution from aviation, study finds



The aviation industry's impact on air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from cargo and passenger flights has been highlighted in recent research, with London, Tokyo, and Dubai emerging as the cities most affected. The study, released by Transport & Environment and the Overseas Development Institute, reveals that the top 20 airports globally produce as much carbon emissions as 58 coal-fired power stations. The report emphasizes the exponential growth of the sector and the urgent need for clean technologies to address the health and climate impacts. Dubai International Airport was identified as the most polluting, emitting 20.1 million tonnes of CO₂ in a year, equivalent to the emissions of five coal power plants, along with significant NO_x and PM_{2.5} pollutants. Critics have called for immediate measures to mitigate the health risks, including night flight bans and fuel improvements, while stressing the need for a reduction in the number of flights to effectively address the issue.

[Learn More!](#)

India Names Astronauts for Maiden Space Flight



India has announced four Air Force pilots who are shortlisted for the country's first manned space flight, part of the Gaganyaan mission slated for next year. The mission aims to send three astronauts into orbit at 400 km for three days before returning. The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) has been conducting several tests in preparation, including a successful crew escape test in October. Following this, Isro plans to send a robot into space in 2024 and astronauts in 2025. The four astronaut-designates, introduced at an event in Thiruvananthapuram, underwent extensive physical and psychological tests and 13 months of training in Russia. They are now continuing their training in India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed them as "India's pride," emphasizing their role in carrying the aspirations of 1.4 billion Indians to space.

[Learn More!](#)

Student Opportunities

INTERNSHIPS | SCHOLARSHIPS | JOBS



Are you still on the lookout for an exciting, demanding, and eye-opening summer job opportunity? Look no further than Adler's Teen Internship Program!

As the deadline approaches, we want to remind you of the incredible opportunity to gain professional work experience behind the scenes of a museum.

Program Details:

- Duration: July 8, 2024, to August 14, 2024
- Schedule: Monday to Friday, 9:00 am–3:00 pm
- Compensation: \$15.80/hour, 25 hours per week, in person at Adler Planetarium
- Transportation: Receive transportation support with CTA passes.

Applications close on March 1.

You should apply if you are:

- Enrolled in high school during the 2023–2024 school year
- Interested in building professional skills
- Excited to work collaboratively as part of a team
- Available for all dates of the internship

Applications submitted without the required resume, cover letter, and recommendations will not be considered.

[Apply Now!](#)



AIR CAMP EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN 2024



Air Camp is a hands-on, educational adventure in aviation and aeronautics. We inspire students at the intermediate and middle school levels, as well as teachers and educational leaders across all grades, to learn more about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) using aviation and aerospace as our medium while promoting the values of scholarship, leadership, and citizenship.

Air Camp is the vision of Dayton-area leaders who want to help young people nationwide achieve their potential, develop critical-thinking and problem-solving skills, and pursue further education and future careers in STEM-related fields, aviation, and aeronautics.

[Apply Now!](#)



The City of Chicago Department of Aviation is thrilled to announce two new career opportunities that are now available. They are seeking dynamic individuals to join their team in the critical roles of Manager of Emergency Services and Coordinating Architect. If you are passionate about making a difference in the aviation industry and possess the skills and expertise needed to excel in these positions, we encourage you to apply.

To learn more about these exciting opportunities and to apply, please visit their website by clicking the button below.

[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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