## YOUTH ACCESS TO AMERICAN JOBS IN AVIATION TASK FORCE

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<td>Whitney Dix</td>
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<td>Vice President Human Resource; HAECO Americas&lt;br&gt;Aircraft Repair Stations</td>
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<td>Senior Vice President and Board Member at Cargo Airline Association; Aero Club Foundation of Washington&lt;br&gt;Other Aviation and Educational Stakeholders or Experts</td>
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<td>School Counselor at Elkins Park School; Cheltenham School District&lt;br&gt;Local Educational Agencies or High Schools</td>
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YOUTH ACCESS TO AMERICAN JOBS IN AVIATION TASK FORCE BIOGRAPHIES

Stacey Bechdolt, President and Founder, VA

Ms. Bechdolt is the President and Founder of Aerospace Education Resource Organization (AERO) and Senior Counsel—Air, Space, and Transportation at The Moak Group in Washington, D.C. Through AERO, she works to increase diversity in aerospace fields by facilitating educational and career opportunities for those who may not otherwise explore aviation and aerospace. Her work focuses on the impact of technology on the national airspace system and helping industry participants solve complex problems and navigate through cutting edge air transportation issues.

She is a graduate of the Indiana University School of Law and holds a Master of Law from the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law.

Joey Colleran, Director of Business Development, TX

Ms. Colleran is the Director of Business Development for Redbird Flight Simulations and a National Board Member of the University Aviation Association. Working with colleges, universities, and high schools across the country, she is focused on creating opportunities for students to gain knowledge about the aviation industry and enter flight training. With 13 years of industry experience, she offers a broad understanding of industry needs and challenges.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Texas Tech University and is a single engine land and sea rated private pilot.

Dr. Ralph Coppola, President and Executive Director, VA

Dr. Coppola is currently President of RKC International and Founder & Executive Director of the Real World Design Challenge (RWDC). He worked in the Executive Office of the President of the United States at the White House, as Chief Educator for the GLOBE Program. Both at the White House and prior Dr. Coppola designed education programs to prepare and motivate K-12 students to study STEM fields and to develop skills needed in the workforce. He organized national STEM events resulting in the report entitled Preparing for the Perfect Storm: Taking Action Together—Developing a National Action plan to Address the ‘T&E’ of STEM, at the National Academy of Engineering for 150 key national stakeholders from government, industry and education.

He holds a Doctorate in education from Rutgers University.

Joanne Damato, Vice President, NJ

Ms. Damato is a Certified Aviation Manager and the Vice President, Educational Strategy & Workforce Development for the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA). She works with her colleagues and NBAA’s volunteer members on continuously building on educational
experiences, peer to peer engagement, and helping to further the diverse, inclusive, and innovative culture and processes at NBAA.

She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Aviation Management/Flight Option Specialization from the Florida Institute of Technology and a Masters of Aeronautical Science Degree from Embry-Riddle. She also holds a Single and Multi-Engine Land Instrument Rating, Commercial Pilot Certificate, and is a Certified Flight Instructor.

**Dr. Sharon DeVivo, President, NY**

Dr. DeVivo is the President of Vaughn College and is the seventh president of the institution and the first woman. Her strategic objective is to transform teaching and learning and create a unique academic experience both inside and outside the classroom. She has led three strategic planning efforts that have transformed the College from primarily a training institution to one that offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in aviation, engineering, management and technology. Vaughn College serves a diverse student body of about 1,550 students who are 80 percent minority, mostly first-generation Americans and first-generation college students.

Her degrees include an Associate’s from the University of Maryland in Munich, Germany, a bachelor’s from the State University of New York at Albany, a master’s from Fordham University and a doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Whitney Dix, Manager of Dispatch Training, TX**

Ms. Dix has spent her nearly 20-year career entirely in the aviation industry, and it all began at Middle Tennessee State University. She earned her Aircraft Dispatcher Certificate from the FAA before graduating with her Bachelor of Science in Aerospace. She began her career at Continental Express, where she worked for 11 years as a Dispatcher and Lead Dispatcher; instructing, developing training curriculum for Dispatchers, and actively dispatching aircraft. In 2011, Whitney joined Southwest Airlines as the Manager of Dispatch Training and she develops, oversees, and instructs Dispatch curriculum and keeps training records for Southwest Dispatchers.

She enjoys mentoring others in the field of aviation and inspiring a new generation to pursue a career in aviation, in particular, aircraft dispatch. She is an active member of the Airline Dispatchers Federation, Women in Aviation International, and the North Texas chapter of Women in Aviation.

**Dr. Joel English, Executive Vice President, VA**

Dr. English is the Executive Vice President of Operations of Centura College, Aviation Institute of Maintenance, and Tidewater Tech, where he supervises all operations over the 19 campuses across the United States. He is a board member for the Aviation Technician Education Council (ATEC) and Central States Private Education Network (CSPEN). He previously served as a Commissioner for the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC) for six years, and he was the Chairman of the Board for two of those years.
He holds a Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Composition from Ball State University, a Masters in Technical and Expository Writing, and a Bachelors in English from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

**Ryan Goertzen, Vice President of Maintenance, TX**

Mr. Goertzen is Vice President Maintenance Workforce Development at AAR Corporation and he is Aviation Technician Education Council (ATEC) immediate past president. He started with Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology in 2011, holding the positions of vice president of education, president of Spartan's Tulsa campuses and corporate officer. He previously spent three years at AAR Corp managing the training and Aviation Safety Action Program (ASAP) in Oklahoma City. He began his career as a pilot instructor for Air Wisconsin Airlines Corporation where he was responsible for Air Wisconsin's first learning management system and e-learning content used in recurrent pilot training. In 2005, he transitioned to the maintenance side of the airline as Air Wisconsin’s Manager of Maintenance Training and ASAP Manager.

He holds a Bachelors in Aviation and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

**James Hall, Dean Aviation Technologies, KS**

Mr. Hall is the Dean of Aviation Technologies at Wichita State University Tech. He began his aviation career as a sheet metal mechanic at Cessna Aviation. He worked his way through the ranks into roles with ever increasing responsibility from a bargaining unit employee, Crew Chief, Foreman, Value Stream Leader, Transition Specialist, and ultimately Program Manager for King Air Production at Hawker-Beechcraft. He was a key member of the team designing and launching the Kansas Career and Technical Education Aviation Pathway. In conjunction with Textron Aviation and USD 259, the largest school district in Kansas, he authored the curriculum and trained high school faculty to implement the Aviation pathway. Currently, seven schools participate in the Aviation pathway reaching over 100 high school students.

While working full time, he earned multiple associates degrees, a Bachelors of Business Administration, a Master’s of Business Administration, and Airframe and Power Plant Certificates. His experiences as a non-traditional student sparked his passion for education.

**Captain Jennifer Henderson, Engineering Test Pilot, WA**

Captain Henderson is a Boeing Engineering Test Pilot and member of the United States Air Force Reserve. She worked primarily as a Flight Test Engineer at Patuxent River where she worked on numerous programs such as the F-14 Digital Flight Control System, H-60 shipboard testing for the U.S. Navy, H-46 Ground Proximity Warning System testing for the United States Marine Corps (USMC) and various shipboard related programs for the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Army. She then became the lead government flight test engineer for the four bladed
UH-1Y, Huey helicopter for the USMC where she helped coordinate a contractor/government
test team to bring the prototype aircraft to first flight. She is currently the Chief Pilot for the 737.
She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of
Maryland and a Master of Science in Systems Engineering from Johns Hopkins University.

**Kasey Herzberg, Director of Engineering, MN**

Ms. Herzberg is currently the Director of Engineering for Aircraft Data Fusion, Inc., where she
leads the Engineering department that provides digital tools, innovation and support systems that
drive safety, simplicity, efficiency and business results. She brings 20 years of experience in the
aviation industry as a manager and leader in product strategy and development, software
programming and project management. She is also the Executive Director of the Challenger
Learning Center of Minnesota, a nonprofit dedicated to inspiring and engaging youth in Science,
Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education. The nonprofit is dedicated to inspiring
and engaging youth in STEM education through experiences that strengthen knowledge in
STEM subjects and inspire students to pursue careers in these important fields.

She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics from the
University of Minnesota as well as a double Master’s from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical
University in both Aviation Operations and Management.

**Nancy Shane Hocking, Ph.D., Manager Pilot Gateway Program, FL**

Dr. Hocking’s current role is managing the Pilot Gateway Programs at JetBlue where she
oversees the various pathways that help prospective pilots make their way to a JetBlue flight
deck. In the past several years, she has been involved in research on pilot sourcing, hiring and
performance, specifically as those areas relate to the First Officer Qualification ruling. She spent
over a decade in the airline industry where she has held several leadership positions, including
Director of Pilot Sourcing and Industry Outreach at Endeavor Air and Vice President of Training
and Employee Development at Cape Air. She has also worked extensively in education where
she has taught students at both the secondary and post-secondary level, the latter of which was in
the aviation department at Farmingdale State College in New York.

She holds a Ph.D. in aerospace sciences from the University of North Dakota, a Master’s Degree
in education from Harvard University and a Master’s Degree in aeronautical science from
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

**Tammera Holmes, President and CEO, IL**

Ms. Holmes serves as President and CEO of Aerostar Consulting Corporation in Chicago,
Illinois and in 2016, she launched her non-profit, The Aerostar Avion Institute, to begin opening
doors for youth in a career field that for most is still very foreign. Her focus is to get more
youth, African Americans, females, and other underserved and under-represented populations
interested in STEM careers, particularly in the Aerospace industry. Her goal is to promote
access to jobs in Aviation and Aerospace.
She became the visionary behind Chicago Public School’s new $750,000 flight simulator lab at Air Force Academy High School. She also worked to assist in establishing the first Aviation Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathway in Chicago Public Schools in nearly three decades. She has also successfully launched Aerostar’s programs for K-8 in Indiana, is developing an aviation CTE Pathway for Gary, Indiana’s Public Schools, and is working to connect the state to Chicago’s robust Aviation Academic Initiative Pipeline. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Aviation Management from Southern Illinois University.

**Captain John Hornibrook, Vice President, WA**

Captain Hornibrook is the vice president of flight operations for Horizon Air and he oversees Horizon’s 900-line pilots and system operations center. A 26-year Alaska Airlines pilot with 16,000 hours of flight time, he has held a variety of positions with increasing responsibility. Most recently, he served as managing director of flight operations at Virgin America, overseeing integration efforts with Alaska. In addition to serving as Air Line Pilots Association Council 67 committee chairman, he was also chairman of ALPA’s Central Air Safety Committee, Training Committee and Training Board Committee.

He holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Aviation Technology from St. Cloud State University in Minnesota and holds a Master of Science in Leadership from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

**John Huff, Vice President, NC**

Mr. Huff leads the Human Resource (HR) teams for HAECO Americas (HAECO), headquartered in Greensboro, North Carolina, with 30 years of HR experience in the textile and aviation industries. He has held various HR positions within HAECO including assignments with its engineering and manufacturing unit, engineering staffing agency, and line services business which employed technicians at over 25 airports in the United States. Currently, he is working with HAECO technical training staff and Guilford Technical Community College to develop coursework that will allow rapid skills training for entry-level job applicants to enter the aircraft maintenance workforce with qualifications that can quickly lead to productive employment. He has also helped create a Certification Assistance Program within HAECO that pays for the majority of an employee’s Airframe and Powerplant Certification education.

He holds a Bachelor Degrees from Presbyterian College and a Master’s Degree from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

**Brett F. Levanto, Vice President, VA**

Mr. Levanto is Vice President of Operations for the Aeronautical Repair Station Association (ARSA) and Obadal, Filler, MacLeod & Klein, P.L.C. He is responsible for managing business operations in addition to overseeing firm and client communications in conjunction with regulatory and legislative policy initiatives. He provides strategic and logistical support, and a wide range of services to clients in regulated industries. While he supports numerous policy initiatives, his primary substantive focus is workforce development, airman certification and
training issues. His support for ARSA includes leading the association’s workforce development initiative.

He holds a Bachelor’s Degree from George Washington University and a Master of Public Policy from the College of William & Mary’s Public Policy Program.

**David Purser, Aviation Physics Instructor, TX**

Mr. Purser is the Aviation Physics Instructor at Karnes City High School, a rural at-risk school district in South Texas. Under his leadership, Karnes City High School was accepted by the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) as one of 25 pilot schools across the United States to assist in developing their high school curriculum. He is responsible for not only teaching core science subjects but additionally four aviation classes, two Airframe and Power Plant Mechanics classes, one Introduction to Aviation Class, and one Pre-Flight Class and one Flight Instruction Class. He is also responsible for all activities and funding for the aviation department at Karnes City High School.

He holds a Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree from Texas A&M University and has a total of 14 years of teaching experience at the secondary level. He has been a program speaker for the last three years at the AOPA’s High School Aviation Symposium, speaking on the Physics of Flight, Bernoulli’s Principle, and on Temperature Transfer Difference Between Air- and Water-Cooled Engines.

**Yvette A. Rose, Senior Vice President, MD**

Ms. Rose is the President of the Aero Club Foundation of Washington, and leads the organization to advance aviation and STEM education in the District of Columbia’s public and public charter middle and high schools. Prior to her appointment, she served as the Aero Club of Washington’s Board of Governors Committee Liaison from 2013-2016. She is also the Senior Vice President of the Cargo Airline Association, serving as an advocate for the United States all-cargo air carrier industry. She specializes in monitoring regulatory activity in the safety and security area and participating in government/industry working groups.

She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from University of Maryland and a Juris Doctorate from Capital University Law School.

**Cyd Smith, School Counselor, PA**

Ms. Smith has over 30 years of experience working with youth and families. She is a school counselor with the Cheltenham School District in Pennsylvania. She has served as a high school and middle school and 5th and 6th grade school counselor. She was the Program Director for an After-School Enrichment Program in North Carolina and her mission is to inspire, encourage, and assist children to reach their full academic and social potential.

She holds a Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree in Sociology from North Carolina State University, and a Master’s Degree in Education from East Carolina University. She has Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Certifications in North Carolina and Pennsylvania.
Amy Voss, Flight Training Quality Specialist, IL

Ms. Voss is a Flight Training Quality Specialist at Cirrus Aircraft, also known amongst the Cirrus flight training network as ‘Regional Training Manager’ or RTM. She joined Cirrus Aircraft in early 2017 from the flight training network where she had been a Cirrus Standardized Instructor pilot and professional flight instructor in the Chicago area for over 6 years. As a member of the training team, she is responsible for overseeing a network of skilled flight training professionals. In this role, she ensures the quality of existing partners and develops new flight training relationships throughout the Eastern U.S. and Canada, Australia and Asia.

In addition to her efforts within Cirrus, she also is a co-host on the podcast, “The Flight School Business Lab” designed to bridge the gap between ‘flight school’ and ‘aviation business’. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree from The University of Arizona.