

## NEWS Release

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### Women and minorities reach new heights in aviation careers

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More than 300 people explored career possibilities available in aviation during the annual Women & Minorities Aviation Career Conference March 28 at Lewis University in Romeoville. Women and minority aviation professionals discussed aviation security, aviation maintenance, aviation administration, air traffic control and piloting.



“The conference was an excellent opportunity to meet women and minorities leaders in the industry and discover the path they followed to success. It a good occasion to ask questions on an individual basis,” commented Bill Brogan, chair of Aviation and Transportation Studies at Lewis University.

“This is a good opportunity to encourage everyone to pursue their dreams and not be discouraged,” added Captain Dolores Pavletic, assistant chief pilot at FedEx. She has been flying for 30 years and expressed enthusiasm for the amount of interest in the event.

The conference is sponsored by Lewis University, American Airlines, Delta Airlines, United Airlines, American Eagle, Boeing International, Chicago Dept. of Aviation, Federal Aviation Administration, Chicago Air Traffic Control and Southwest Airlines. Lewis provides aviation career opportunities in flight management, administration, maintenance, security and air traffic control. Lewis is one of 31 institutions in the country certified by the FAA to offer the Air Traffic Collegiate Training Initiative Program. For more information, contact Frank DuBois at (815) 836-5936.



During the conference, Lewis University and the International Society of Transport Aircraft Trading donated two computers to the Young Eagles program of the Tuskegee Airmen Chicago “DODO” Chapter. Duane Hayden, Vice President of the DODO chapter, was among the chapter's representatives accepting the donation.

Pictured are: (left to right) Brother James Gaffney, FSC, President of Lewis University, Mike Julius, a Midway Airport Tower Controller, Tammara Holmes, President & CEO of AeroStar Corporation,

Lou Freeman, a Southwest Airlines Pilot, Bill Brogan, Chair of Aviation and Transportation Studies at Lewis University, and Duane Hayden, O'Hare International Airport Dept. of Aviation.

The Young Eagles program introduces children, ages 7-17, to aviation with up-close overviews of aircrafts and simulators. Tammara Holmes, president and CEO of AeroStar Corporation, shared her success story as a former participant in the One Young Eagles program. The Maywood native expressed gratitude for the program that introduced her to a career in aviation. She still feels passionate about aviation more than a decade later. She said, “It’s my calling.”