



Afterschool Ambassador Program: Legacy of Leadership

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Chicago's Tammera L. Holmes, Selected as One of Just 15 'Afterschool Ambassadors' in United States This Year

Ms. Holmes Will Work in Illinois and Nationally to Increase Students' Access to Afterschool

Washington, DC – The [Afterschool Alliance](#) announced today that Tammera L. Holmes, President & CEO of the AeroStar Avion Institute and creator of the AeroStars Aviation Exploration programs with the Boeing Company and After School Matters, has been selected to serve as a [2016-2017 Afterschool Ambassador](#). She is one of just 15 leaders from across the nation chosen for the honor this year. Each Afterschool Ambassador will continue directing or supporting a local afterschool program while also serving a one-year Afterschool Ambassador term, organizing public events, communicating with elected officials and policy makers, and in other ways growing support for afterschool programs.

“We are thrilled that Tammera will serve as an Afterschool Ambassador this year,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “She is a dedicated champion for quality afterschool and summer learning programs. I know she will mobilize business, community, faith leaders, lawmakers, educators, parents and others to increase resources for afterschool programs, which keep students safe, inspire them to learn and help working families. These programs offer hands-on learning opportunities, homework help, mentors, science and technology, access to healthy snacks and meals, sports and fitness, arts programming, civic engagement, and much more. I’m eager to work with Tammera to bring us closer to the day when no children or youth are unsupervised and at risk after the school day ends.”

“I am delighted to support the Afterschool Alliance’s work to increase resources for afterschool programs, here and around the country,” said Holmes. “In my 20 years working in this field, I’ve witnessed firsthand the many ways that afterschool programs give students opportunities to explore their interests and discover their passions, while giving parents the peace of mind that comes with knowing their children are safe and supervised, with engaging, educational activities, during the afternoons. I look forward to raising awareness and support for the out-of-school-time opportunities all students need.”

AeroStar anticipates serving more than 400 youth, especially minority and underrepresented students, in grades K-12 this school year. AeroStars Aviation Exploration Apprenticeship

Programs are currently offered to high school students (grades 9-12) through a partnership with After School Matters at Air Force Academy High School; Perspectives Charter School-IIT Math & Science Academy; Urban Prep Charter School for Young Men, Bronzeville Campus; and Young Women's Leadership Charter School (summer program).

The new AeroStars Aviation Academic Pipeline Project for grades K-8, created in partnership with the Boeing Company, will be launching in early 2017. Students will learn about the aviation industry, how it impacts their world and the vast array of career opportunities available to them within the industry. Afterschool activities will include:

- ➔ Learning about the rich history of aviation, including notable contributions by local Illinoisans, minorities and females;
- ➔ Flying kites, drones, remote-controlled helicopters, RC Aircraft and flight simulators and constructing model airports and model airplanes;
- ➔ Receiving homework help and career planning assistance and building career skills like completing a resume and performing mock interviews;
- ➔ Meeting aerospace industry professionals; visiting local airports and touring corporations like United Airlines World Headquarters, Priester Aviation and Signature Flight Support; and
- ➔ Each student will also have the opportunity to take an introductory airplane ride with the Chicago Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated through the Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagles Program;

Each Ambassador will organize a major event for *Lights On Afterschool*, the Afterschool Alliance's annual rally for afterschool, to be held on October 20th this year. Last year, 1 million people participated in some 8,000 *Lights On Afterschool* events across the United States and at U.S. military bases worldwide.

The 2016-2017 Afterschool Ambassadors are:

- **Arizona:** Jeremy King, Community Services Supervisor, Kid Zone Enrichment Program in Tempe;
- **Delaware:** Beth Ohline, Senior Child Development Director, Bear-Glasgow YMCA in Newark;
- **District of Columbia:** Daniela Grigioni, Executive Director, After-School All-Stars DC in Washington, D.C.;
- **Idaho:** Lissa Hall, School Age Coordinator, Mountain Home Air Force Base Youth Programs in Mountain Home;
- **Illinois:** Tammera L. Holmes, President & CEO, AeroStar Avion Institute in Chicago;
- **Iowa:** Nate Clark, Vice President, John Deere Foundation and Manager of Enterprise Citizenship, Deere & Company;
- **Maine:** Amy Pichette, Director of Afterschool Programming, LearningWorks in Portland;
- **Michigan:** Maria Mitter, Assistant Director, Eastern Michigan University Bright Futures 21st CCLC in Ypsilanti;
- **New Jersey:** Sarah Cruz, Special Assistant, Newark Public Schools Office of Expanded Learning Time in Newark;

- **North Carolina:** Bill McClain, Executive Director, Guiding Institute for Developmental Education (GIDE) in Winston-Salem;
- **North Carolina:** Betsey McFarland, Executive Director, Wade Edwards Foundation in Raleigh;
- **Oregon:** Debra Jones, Program Coordinator, Oceanspray Family Centers and Housing Authority of Lincoln County in Newport;
- **Rhode Island:** Ayana Crichton, Expanded Learning Program Director, Cranston Public Schools in Cranston;
- **Wisconsin:** Eric Vanden Heuvel, Chief Academic Officer, The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Green Bay in Green Bay; and
- **Wyoming:** Tamra Petersen, Grant Coordinator, 21st CCLC Uinta B.O.C.E.S. #1 Education Center in Evanston.

The [America After 3PM](#) household survey of more than 30,000 families, commissioned by the Afterschool Alliance, found that participation in afterschool programs has increased to 10.2 million students nationwide, up from 6.5 million in 2004. But the unmet demand for afterschool programs has increased as well. Today, for every child in an afterschool program, there are two more whose parents say they would participate, if a program were available. Unmet demand is especially high in rural communities and communities of concentrated poverty. One in five students in the United States today is unsupervised after the school day ends.

A large and growing body of evidence demonstrates improvements in attendance, behavior, academic achievement and more among children in afterschool programs. Researchers have also found that afterschool programs encourage increased parental involvement – an important building block for student success.

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The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. More information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

Founded in 2008, the mission of AeroStar is to: 1) Increase public understanding of the importance of aerospace education and training initiatives at the local, state, national and global levels, especially among African Americans, Latinos, females, underserved and economically disadvantaged students; 2) Maximize academic achievement among students by providing strong, innovative academic tools that enhance their aptitude for learning both inside and outside of the classroom and 3) Provide a support system for those interested in pursuing careers in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and in particular, the aerospace industry. AeroStar has the support of many prominent aerospace agencies, organizations, businesses, community leaders and academic institutions and has become widely recognized as the foremost authority on youth aerospace education and training in the Midwest region. Follow the [Aviation Academic Initiative Pipeline](#) on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).