

December 16, 2005

Dear Principal:

The Chicago Airport System is pleased to announce the 9th Annual African-American Pioneers in Aviation Essay Contest. The theme for this year's contest is "Aviation Heroes – A Celebration of African-Americans In The Armed Services Past and Present." This exciting educational opportunity allows students to learn about careers in aviation, and will reward three outstanding students with prizes donated by sponsors of the contest.

Founded in 1997, the Annual African-American Pioneers in Aviation Essay Contest invites students to write about an African American hero or heroine in aviation, including the Tuskegee Airmen or others who shaped aviation, and those who are making aviation history today. This year's contest also asks students to research real careers in aviation and to look at things he or she can do today to get started. The winners are announced at a special ceremony held during Black History Month.

Students in grades 5-12 may submit a 500-word essay that includes answers to three questions:

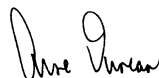
- 1.) Name and explain the significance or contribution of a person and his or her accomplishments to African-American aviation in the armed services, past or present. The hero you choose can be a famous person from the past or present or someone known to you personally, such as a family member or neighbor;
- 2.) Name a career in the field of aviation and describe the responsibilities of that job and the education and experience required to pursue that job; and
- 3.) Name three things that you can do today to prepare for a career in aviation.

We appreciate your sharing the enclosed contest rules and teacher materials with the appropriate teachers at your school and hope that you and your school will take advantage of the opportunity to be a part of this year's event. **Please note that essays are due on Tuesday, February 7, 2006.** We look forward to reading your students' essays and applaud your commitment to education and leadership.

Sincerely,



Patrick J. Harney
Acting Commissioner
Department of Aviation



Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer
Chicago Public Schools



Bev Dunjill
President
Tuskegee Airmen,
DODO Chapter