

December 16, 2005

RE: 9th Annual African-American Pioneers in Aviation Essay Contest

Dear Teacher:

The Chicago Airport System is pleased to announce the 9<sup>th</sup> 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;
- 3.) Name three things that you can do today to prepare for a career in aviation.

The enclosed materials explain the contest rules and submission requirements. Entries will be judged in three grade classifications based upon the grade of the student on February 15, 2006: 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade, 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grade, and 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

We are asking teachers to please help by conducting a preliminary review of essays from your class and selecting the top three to go on for judging. However, all participating students will receive a certificate of recognition for participating. On the enclosed submission form, please include the total number of students (including the top three) who submitted essays from your class, to ensure that all participating students receive a certificate of recognition.

**Please note that essays are due on Tuesday, February 7.** The top three finalists overall, in each age classification, will be invited to read their essays before a panel of judges prior to an awards ceremony for winners, their families, teachers, principals, and original members of the Tuskegee Airmen. The details for the finalist judging and awards ceremony will be sent to the schools of the finalists.

Submissions should be sent to

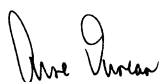
Terri Gibson  
Promotions Office  
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773/686-7492 (phone number for additional information if needed).

We look forward to reading your students' essays and thank you for helping us give proper recognition to African American Pioneers in Aviation.

Sincerely,



Patrick J. Harney  
Acting Commissioner  
Department of Aviation



Arne Duncan  
Chief Executive Officer  
Chicago Public Schools



Bev Dunjill  
President  
Tuskegee Airmen,  
DODO Chapter