



East Coast Chapter Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.
Post Office Box 8541
Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling
Washington, DC 20032-8541



February 1, 2023

The East Coast Chapter Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. (ECCTAI), provides programs for youth, including Educational Grants and our Herb Jones, Jr. Youth in Aviation Program. These programs encourage youth to explore aviation and aerospace careers and inspire them to achieve their goals and to lead. In 2022, ECCTAI awarded \$18,000 in educational grants to students with financial need. We also provided over \$20,000 to fund our Herb Jones, Jr. Youth in Aviation Program. Seven students completed their flight training through a solo flight in 2022. You are invited to be our partner, and join our efforts to grow these youth programs, and support an increase in the number of deserving youths from the greater DMV area. Our goals are to:

- *Perpetuate the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen through historical research, documentation, and presentations*
- *Motivate youth toward aviation and aerospace careers*
- *Inspire youth toward outstanding achievement and leadership in our democratic society.*

Our major fundraising event is the **General Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. Golf Classic**. The 32nd Annual Golf Classic to be held on August 28, 2023, at **Norbeck Country Club, Rockville, MD**. We invite you to be a sponsor of this event. ECCTAI is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, so your support is tax deductible.

The Tuskegee Airmen, recipients of the **Congressional Gold Medal** (March 29, 2007) and recently featured in the blockbuster movie **“Red Tails,”** and the documentary **“Double Victory,”** are true American heroes and synonymous with excellence in all they did. They are a rare group of individuals who fought for the right to serve their country in a time of need. As America’s first African American military airmen, they proved that Blacks had the intellect and courage to operate complex machines in stressful situations. Their successes proved that America is much stronger when all its citizens are allowed to contribute to our society. Our youth programs aspire to instill Tuskegee Airmen values in our students.

The ECCTAI Education Assistance Committee actively seeks students with demonstrated ability and the desire to pursue higher education, primarily in technical fields. We work with students from the local community to help hone their skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) through academic programs and practical experiences. ECCTAI has developed a long-term partnership with Oxon Hill High School, a renowned public Science and Technology High School. Many Oxon Hill students pursue aerospace careers as a result of this relationship.

In one ECCTAI program, Oxon Hill students contacted the International Space Station with a telephone bridge through the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Program. Students were able to ask questions of Italian Astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti. In preparation for this event, ECCTAI, ARISS and NASA held several classroom sessions with students to educate them on space travel, activities on the ISS, spacecraft orbits and how to predict and track when the ISS will fly overhead. The students also discussed aviation and space

The East Coast Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen, Incorporated, is a 501(c)(3), non-profit historical organization (EIN 51-0231448), properly registered with the Washington DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (File No: 731758). Our DUNS number is 961695173.



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careers, amateur radio operations, and the history of the ARISS program. In addition, the students dialoged with some Tuskegee Airmen about their historical experiences.

ECCTAI's Herb Jones, Jr. Youth in Aviation Program provides students an opportunity to become familiar with careers in aviation and aerospace and to gain practical aviation experience. The program is conducted in three parts:

Level One exposes high school students (ages 15 - 19) to possible careers in aviation through discussions, activities and fieldtrips. Students meet in the fall at College Park Airport for all-day sessions on five consecutive Saturdays. The sessions, led by ECCTAI members and guest instructors, cover aviation history, careers, the basics of flight, air traffic control, maintenance, and an orientation flight.

Level Two is designed for the serious student who decides he/she is interested in becoming a pilot. For those who qualify, ECCTAI instructors teach the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) ground school over 8-10 weekends to enable students to pass the FAA written exam (a prerequisite to Level Three). This phase of the program is conducted in late winter/early spring.

Level Three, the flying portion of the program, is held during the summer for students who have successfully completed Level Two. They receive at least 15 hours of ECCTAI-funded flight instruction. The goal is for students to solo an aircraft. ECCTAI sometimes assists selected students who continue to fly and pursue advanced flying certifications.

The Herb Jones, Jr. Youth in Aviation Program also includes an aviation maintenance program. Students work as apprentices with professional aircraft mechanics from AvDyne Aerospace Company at Thurgood Marshall BWI International Airport. This program provides students valuable experience required to earn their professional mechanic license.

Your support of ECCTAI and this fundraising event will allow us to sustain the funding of these outstanding youth programs. We hope to increase the number of students supported with our Education Assistance Grants and to expand our Herb Jones, Jr. Youth In Aviation Program, so that more youth are exposed to careers in aviation and aerospace. If you have any questions, please contact Col. (Ret) C. D. Smith at (703) 967-4463, Golf@ecctai.org. We welcome your support!

Sincerely,

CLARENCE D. SMITH, JR.
Colonel, USAF (Retired)
Past President and Golf Chair