
Bessie Coleman Aerospace Leadership Academy

For Immediate Release:
September 6, 2011

For More Information:
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The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Louisville Kentucky Regional Airport hosted the Second Annual Bessie Coleman Aerospace Leadership Academy offered by the Bessie Coleman Aerospace Legacy, Inc. (BCAL) for young women interested in aviation fields related to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).

BCAL partnered with FAA, United Parcel Service (UPS), Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU), PNC Bank, the National Black Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees (NBCFAE) and the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals (OBAP) to ensure that young women are prepared to be engaged at the forefront of these 'cutting edge' opportunities.

Thelma Rudd, President BCAL facilitated the second annual Bessie Coleman Aerospace Leadership Academy, a two-day workshop for young women age 18-24. The event was held at the administration building of the Louisville Regional Airport (SDF), August 1-2, 2011. Dianne Lewis Brown, Keith Buckner (FAA SDF ATCT Supervisor), Yolanda Buckner, Natasha Cummings (Louisville Workforce Development), First Officer Jeannie Dismukes (UPS/BCAL), Trent Findley (PNC Bank), Dr. Nancy Lawrence (ERAU/BCAL), Carmita McDaniel, Skip Miller (FAA SDF ADO), LaVerne Reid (retired FAA manager/BCAL), Thelma Rudd (FAA AJE-1600/BCAL) and Karen Scott (FAA SDF ADO) served as seminar leads.

Through hands-on interactive activities, the two-day Leadership Academy introduced young participants to the broad array of STEM related aviation and aerospace careers, mentoring programs, field experiences, tools and goal setting practices that will enable them to succeed and advance in transportation careers. Other sessions involved leadership development, conflict management and communication and healthy lifestyles. Field trips include tours of Louisville airport development, selected UPS facilities, the FAA Air Traffic Control Tower, and General Aviation operations at Bowman Field.

Quoting Secretary of Transportation, Ray LaHood, "We need to tap the best and brightest minds of this generation in order to make our vision for a cutting-edge transportation network a reality." Honoring historic aviator Bessie Coleman as a distinguished role model, the Leadership Academy is a forum for young women to set career goals, consider aviation/aerospace technology and learn tips for making successful career choices, especially those relating to STEM.

On August 3rd, Joy Buckner, Kaelynee Debose-Brown, Kristen Findley, Diana Lugemwa, Victoria Marables, Jaleesa Peete, Haneefah Rudd and Cidnee' Thompson graduated at the Fly Sister Fly Empowerment Breakfast at Marriott Hotel, at the opening of the OBAP Annual Conference, where many of the international organization's members gathered to explore the technical, policy, financial, and political aspects of emerging transportation issues in virtually every sector.

Media: For more information about BCAL, visit www.WeAreTheLegacy.com or contact Thelma Rudd, President, Bessie Coleman Aerospace Legacy, Inc. (BCAL) 901-219-7544, truidd@WeAreTheLegacy.com

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Karen A. Scott, P.E., A.A.E. (FAA Deputy Executive Director, Planning & Engineering Louisville Regional Airport Authority) shares layout of airport with academy participants



Laverne Reid (Retired FAA ADO Manager) and Dr. Nancy Lawrence (ERAU professor) observe as UPS flight instructor operates simulator.

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