



## Bessie Coleman Aerospace Leadership Academy

In recognition of Bessie Coleman "Queen Bess"- who on June 15, 1926 became the first American citizen to receive an International Pilots License - The Bessie Coleman Foundation, INC (BCF) hosted its first successful Bessie Coleman Aerospace Leadership Academy, June 15 & 16, 2010 in Memphis, TN, for six highly motivated young women between the ages of 18-24.

Kellean Terrell, Jasmine Liggins, Jalessa Peete, Diana Lugenwa, Jheri Andrade and Jennifer Pope took advantage of this intense two day workshop designed to utilize the proven skills of Bessie Coleman to expose and influence young women to set goals, and to consider aviation and aerospace technology as a career. BCF President Thelma Rudd, First Officer Stephanie Grant, and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Memphis ARTCC controller Peepsie James spent both days with this dynamic group.



on how to join the FAA's Technical Operations' workforce.

The Academy started on June 15<sup>th</sup>, the anniversary of Queen Bess' license. The picture on the left was taken at the executive office of Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority (MSCAA) at the Memphis International Airport. Monica Hoyer (in gray suit – FAA KY/TN/MS GNAS Manager) opened the Academy by sharing candid stories about her FAA career. Ms Hoyer also provided valuable information

The Academy participants then learned about airport management from the MSCAA Operations Duty Manager, Rob Jacobs (Pictured below).



Monica Hoyer, FAA KY/TN/MS GNAS Manager with First Officer Stephanie Grant. Grant was part of the historic February 2009 all black female commercial flight crew.

The next aerospace adventure pictured to the right was a tour of the Memphis Air Traffic Control Tower where they received information about air traffic control. The group also learned how to implement and to improve on Queen Bess' skills in money with "The Basic of Financial Planning – Nice Girls Don't Get Rich" presented by Financial Planner, Alese Pewitt, featured below.



From there, the Academy moved to the FEDEX World Technology Center in Collierville for lunch and a lively workshop in Communication and Conflict Resolution presented by Dr. Rachell Anderson (pictured below left). "How to Become a Commercial Pilot" was then shared by First Officer Stephanie Grant (below center). The day ended with FEDEX manager, Celika Caldwell's (below right) "How to Mix and Mingle Your Way to Success".



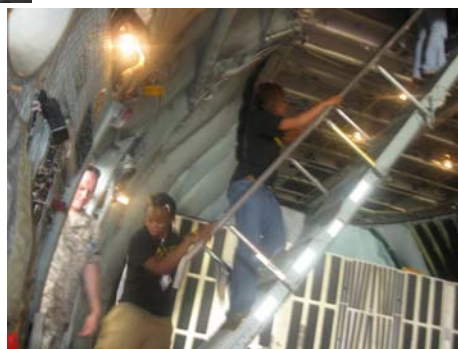
On Wednesday, June 16, the day began at the Memphis Air Route Traffic Control Center. Featured below left is Herb Tyson, Memphis ARTCC training specialist, who provided the young women with a thorough briefing and tour of the ARTCC. "How to Be an Air Traffic Controller" was presented by Peepsie James (below center), FAA Memphis Enroute Air Traffic Controller. These hardworking women had a brownbag pizza lunch and learned about setting goals or "How to Get Where You Are Going" through the loving but intense workshop by Dr. Angela Sallie (below right).



After the working lunch, the group toured the Aviation Mechanic School at Tennessee Technology Center. There they met one of the Bessie Coleman Foundation's "Sisters of Distinction", Ms. Pat Thompson (Memphis Aviation Department Coordinator). Ms. Thompson (below in red) is extremely knowledgeable in all facets of administration at the Aviation Training Center, but more importantly, her leadership ability is the focal point for all contact with the Aviation School.



**But the highlight of the Academy was climbing into the C-5A at the Air National Guard - 164th Airlift Wing. Lt. Col Spencer was a gracious host as you can see below!**



The Bessie Coleman Aerospace Leadership Academy Graduation took place at the Memphis International Airport. The Keynote Speaker and Academy sponsor was Sandra Walls (below left), President/CEO AVPOL International. Ms Wall's topic was "Leadership – It Is a Great Opportunity". The picture in the center is BCALA graduates, Jheri Andrade, Kellean Terrell, Jennifer Pope, Jalessa Peete, Jasmine Liggins, and Diana Lugemwa with BCF President Thelma Rudd and BCALA sponsor Sandra Walls. Because of Ms. Walls' donation and the assistance from all the mentors, the academy participants learned about careers in aviation and aerospace through tours, guided discussion with professional aviators and lectures. They also explored practical leadership skills such as financial literacy, setting goals, conflict resolution, and communication, through workshops, seminars and a highly motivated graduation keynote speaker. There was no charge for the academy and because of Ms. Walls donation, BCF provided quality leather workbooks and materials, transportation, parking fees, and meals/snacks for both days including the graduation reception. Because of combined efforts of all, the Bessie Coleman Aerospace Leadership Academy was able to utilize the proven skills of Bessie Coleman to expose and influence young women to set goals, and to consider aviation and aerospace technology as a career.



**Please support the Bessie Coleman Aerospace Leadership Academy!  
It is all about preparing young women to be successful!**

- ❖ You will be given the unique opportunity to meet African-American women who are successful in aviation and aerospace technology.
- ❖ You will also be taught leadership skills that will be useful wherever your life takes you.
- ❖ You will discover how to use your talents to become a positive influence to society.
- ❖ You will be a better person because of your knowledge of Queen Bess!
- ❖ For more information visit [www.WeAreTheLegacy.com](http://www.WeAreTheLegacy.com)