

All Girls Aviation Career Education (ACE) Camp

BCF inspires girls to be 'STRONG, SMART, and BOLD' (Girls Inc. motto)

The term “Angels of Aviation” is used for individuals that devote time and resources in educating our youth about Aviation. Thanks to FedEx and the Memphis community of Aviation we have hundreds of such “Angels.”



Fourteen (14) young ladies from Girls Inc. of Memphis were able to experience the exciting world of Aviation with the support of Organizations such as the Black Airline Pilots (OBAP), Tuskegee Airman, Inc. - Memphis Chapter (TAI), Women in Aviation International (WAI) – Memphis Belles Chapter, The Bessie Coleman Foundation, INC, and Federal Women’s Program (FWP).

The week-long camp coordinated by two “sisters” in Aviation, Ina Wiehl (FedEx) and Thelma Rudd (FAA), provided some valued insight on Aviation Careers. Activities, tours, presentations, classroom instructions, and an actual simulator session were enjoyed by the young ladies thanks to the help of FedEx “Angels of Aviation” Melvin “Mel” Bradley, F/O Wenyu Fu, Julie Harkey, Louise Horn, Angela Jefferson, Sue Englebrecht, Priscilla Parham, Margaret “Marcie” Ramsey, Billy Shannon, Tom Thibeault, Sarah Williams, Captains-Fred Fink, Al Glenn, Michael Heath, Mike Padron, June Viviano, Frank L. Wallace, and Alan Welch.

Captains Michael Heath and Alan Welch provided the instruction on the A-310 simulator located in the FedEx Falcon building. Jennifer Johnson, one of the campers, commented, “I thought it was going to be like an arcade game, but it looks and feels like the real thing” (as noted by Tran Bui). Captain Heath stated, “It is important for the girls to get to know what people do for a living so they can decide for themselves if they are interested in doing it. They get to see and feel what crew members go thru on a daily basis.”

The week’s event was wrapped up with a reception sponsored by Mary McDaniel, VP of Materiel and Corporate Sourcing. The goals of the program were fulfilled through the information provided to the young ladies with the help of FedEx Express, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Memphis ARTCC and Tower, Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority, Tennessee Technology, and Tennessee Air National Guard. The young ladies, empowered with knowledge of past and present Women Aviators, learned the strength is within to be successful in what is considered to be “non-traditional” careers. Hopefully, we inspired all of

the girls present to be 'STRONG, SMART, and BOLD' (Girls Inc. motto) by the end of the week and hope to do so in the future with additional camps. Thanks to all who sponsored and supported us.