



Clayton County Public Schools

Building A Better Tomorrow, Today!

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ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Division of Communications, Public Relations, Marketing & Strategic Improvement

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CCPS Hosts First National Aviation Symposium Saturday, December 2, 2023, at Morrow High School

JONESBORO - Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) recently hosted its first National Aviation Symposium on Saturday, December 2nd at Morrow High School, home of the renowned STEM and Aviation Training Pathway for students in grades 9th through 12th.

The program was composed of cadets who introduced the aviation industry experts and program participants. The scholars enrolled in the program expressed their appreciation to industry leaders, program instructors, pathway partners, and special guests for supporting the only aviation pipeline program in the Atlanta Metro area. Morrow High School's aviation program serves as an instrumental site for major airline pilots to utilize school-based flight simulators for training hours.

Keynote speaker Captain William Ronald (Bill) Norwood served 31 years in the United States Air Force as a pilot flying primarily B-52 planes. He also joined United Airlines in 1965 where he retired with experience in serving in all cockpit positions and flying many different airplanes. Captain Norwood is also one of the founding and active members of the Organization of Black Airline Pilots (OBAP). The organization is dedicated to the encouragement and advancement of minorities in all aviation and aerospace careers.

Captain Norwood delivered an inspiring message of encouragement and special instructions for students interested in pursuing a career in aviation, engineering, or related fields. He also charged scholars to use every second of every day to become better in life, adding life isn't just about destinations, it's more important to enjoy the journey. Before ending his remarks, Captain Norwood implored attendees to remain focused while understanding that preparation plus opportunity equal success and shared his 3 P's in life, which has consistently served as a moral compass: Preparation, Patience, and Perseverance. These are his ultimate tools for long-term success initially as a student and later as a seasoned aviation professional.

CCPS' STEM and Aviation Program have formed multiple partnerships, with a key founding partner being the Brock Foundation, Inc. Captain Omar Brock, also a featured guest speaker at the conference, is a commercial Pilot and certified flight instructor. The Brock Foundation's goal is to promote initiatives that serve Title 1 community schools as it relates to career discovery in aviation to raise public awareness about inclusivity in the aerospace industry. As part of his remarks, Captain Brock shared personal testimonies and data for African Americans, particularly women who have limited careers in aviation to pique students' interest in aviation career paths with identified mentors and instructors.

A welcome video message was shared on behalf of the Superintendent/CEO of Schools, Dr. Anthony W. Smith. Dr. Smith's inspiring message encouraged stakeholders in attendance to learn more about the

aviation program to expand offerings and services to our students and staff. They were also asked to identify ways to enhance partnership opportunities, particularly with the busiest airport in the world, Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, which primarily resides in Clayton County.

“Our school district must make opportunities available for our students to be successful in whatever post-secondary option they choose - higher education, the military, or directly into the workforce,” Dr. Smith said. “Events such as this Aviation Symposium are just one example of this essential support that our district can provide.”

In a room filled with pilots representing major airlines, breakout sessions were offered to provide participants with opportunities to learn more about aviation, discuss ways to strengthen partnerships and educate students in attendance about aviation careers.

On behalf of district officials, leaders, and administrators, a special thank you is extended to Mr. Lawvigneaud Harrell, Principal of Morrow High School (MHS); Dr. Pamela Pitts, Executive Director of CTAE (Career, Technical and Agricultural Education); MHS Aviation and Innovation Career pathway under the leadership of Lt. Colonel Raymond King and all partners in education that work in collaboration to support CCPS and to Build a Better Tomorrow, Today for our students!

Please click on the following link to access photos of the aviation conference.

<https://ccpscommunications.client-gallery.com/gallery/morrow-high-school-national-aviation-conference>

-An official document from the Clayton County Public School System-

About Clayton County Public Schools: Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited by Cognia. The district offers a focused world-class program based on a challenging curriculum which is taught from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Serving over 50,000 students, Clayton County Public Schools is ranked among the 100 largest school districts in the U.S. and is the sixth-largest school system in Georgia.

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