



**TUSKEGEE  
NEXT**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2016**

NAME: ANDRE SANDERS AGE: 21  
HOMETOWN: CHICAGO  
SCHOOL: SOUTHERN ILLINOIS  
UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE  
YEAR: COLLEGE SOPHOMORE

NAME: TYLER THOMAS  
AGE: 17  
HOMETOWN:  
CHICAGO, IL  
SCHOOL: LINCOLN  
PARK HIGH SCHOOL  
YEAR: SENIOR

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN



STEVE DAVIS  
BOARD CHAIRMAN

My lifelong fascination with aviation started at a young age. As a child, I would sit at the end of a runway in my hometown in Tennessee watching with excitement as planes would take off and touch down, marveling at the magic of how they stayed aloft.

Imagine my excitement in 2004 when the DuPage County Chairman appointed me to the Board of Directors of the DuPage Airport Authority, one of the nation's premier aviation facilities. Nearly ten years later, I humbly accepted an appointment as Chairman of Board in 2013.

I began to wonder how we could do our part in opening up the door of the aerospace industry to talented, eager, but at-risk children from underserved areas in our own backyard. The best model was created many years ago with the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen!

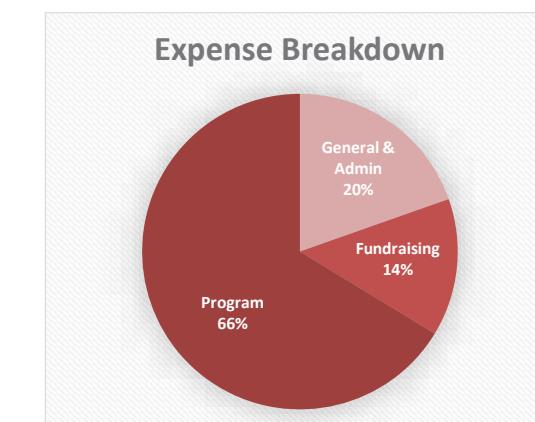
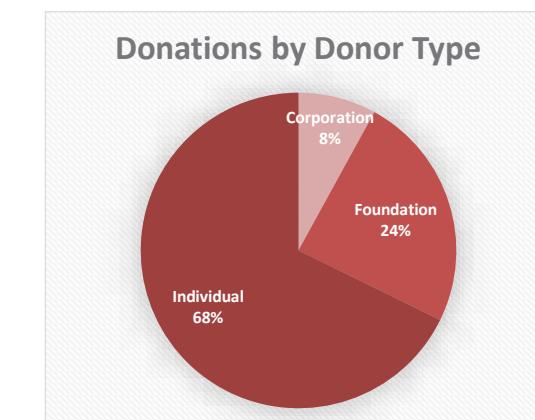
The young African American men who would become the Tuskegee Airmen overcame segregation and prejudice and remain one of the World War II's most highly respected fighter groups. Tuskegee Next was borne out of their legacy. Our Mission is achieved by honoring these remarkable men, Tuskegee Next seeks to transform the lives of at risk youth through aviation education and career path opportunities, so they can transform their communities. With the enthusiastic support of generous donors, Tuskegee Next seeks to immerse participants in the aerospace industry through formal flight training programs, educational initiatives, life skills and mentorship collaborations.

This year we celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the start of the Tuskegee Airmen Experience! What a proud legacy they leave for our young aviators to follow. Three years ago Tuskegee Next was just a concept. We had a Big Audacious Goal of continuing the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen by teaching at-risk youth to take off in flight and life.

The Tuskegee Next strategy is not to just teach young people to fly but to see them through to completion of their private pilot's license over summer vacation. Only three short years later, two classes of cadets have completed the program. I can't tell you how rewarding it has been to watch these young people grab hold of their futures and passionately run after their dreams of flying! I am grateful for everyone who has been part of this remarkable journey; our best years of greatest impact are still ahead!



## 2015-16 FINANCIALS



**TOTAL INCOME:**  
**\$200,479.27**  
**TOTAL EXPENSES:**  
**\$226,950.45**

# OUR VISION



## THE LEGACY

The Tuskegee Airmen were dedicated, determined young men who enlisted to become America's first black military airmen, at a time when there were many people who thought that blacks lacked intelligence, skill, courage and patriotism. They came from every section of the country, with large numbers coming from New York City, Washington, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia and Detroit. Each one possessed a strong personal desire to serve the United States of America to the best of his ability.



## THE NEED

According to a recent Brookings Institute study, the majority of economically disadvantaged African-Americans will remain so and a large plurality of middle class African-Americans will see their economic prospects decline over their lifetimes. Meanwhile, a recent Boeing Pilot and Technical Market Outlook forecasts nearly half a million new commercial airline pilots will be needed to fly all the new airplanes entering the world fleet over the next 20 years.



## THE OPPORTUNITY

Build a premier aviation youth outreach program to enable at-risk youth to obtain pilot's licenses and start on an aviation career path.

Honoring the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen, Tuskegee Next transforms the lives of at-risk youth through aviation education and career path opportunities, so they can transform their communities and the future of the skies.



## CADET SPOTLIGHT

Amira Rae Collier is a junior at Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama. She earned her pilot's license through our program in the summer of 2015. Amira is majoring in Aerospace Science Engineering! "Since I have become one of the cadets for Tuskegee Next, I can truly say that I have been welcomed with open arms," says Amira. She dreams of the skies and grabs every opportunity that comes her way that allows her to get closer to her dreams. Amira is an exceptionally gifted student as well as a hard worker! We are proud that Tuskegee Next is a part of her story.

## OUR THREE-TIERED APPROACH:



### FLIGHT TRAINING

- Young Eagles Rally (Introduction to the Aerospace Industry)
- ACE Camp (Aviation, Career and Education Camps)
- Tuskegee Airmen Youth "Safe" Summer Aviation program at O'Hare
- Tuskegee Airmen Legacy Flight Academy (2 week ground school)
- Tuskegee NEXT (8 week flight training school to obtain their pilot's license)



### LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM

- Aerospace careers and education briefings to students by aviation professionals
- Mentorship Program (Aviation professionals paired with students)
- Community Service Projects



### EDUCATION ASSISTANCE

- Exposure to all careers in the Aerospace Industry via the STEM program
- Scholarships
- Tuition Assistance
- Internships (paid and unpaid)
- Career Assistance (civilian industry and military)

# OUR YEAR

## WISDOM FROM THE PAST

The cadets had the two opportunities to spend time with two Tuskegee Airman of World War II. Now in their 90s, Milton Williams O. Lawton Wilkerson. Mr. Williams aka "Fly Boy" was featured in the 2012 film *Red Tails* starring Cuba Gooding Jr. He flew close to 40 missions during the war and says he's honored to spend time and guide the next generation of minority aviators. The cadets were able to soak up their wisdom and hear first-hand stories from the Airman. The cadets will never forget that afternoon.

## EARNING THEIR WINGS

During the Tuskegee Next summer program, the cadets were featured on ABC & WGN News. One of the 9 cadets, Diego just 16, was highlighted stating. "I would see how my parents struggled, how my friend's parents struggled, how all these people in this neighborhood struggled. And I was like, I don't really want this." Diego work ethics, determination, and passion to flying helped him achieve his goal. He was one of the six cadets who earned his wings.

## GIVING BACK

Tuskegee Next seeks to raise up leaders in the aviation industry who serve as role models in their communities; changing lives and building hope. The cadets had an opportunity to spend the day with Ace Camp. The Aviation Career Education (ACE) Academy is a week-long summer camp program held at Lewis University every summer. The ACE Camp is designed to introduce inner city students, age 13 thru 18, to flying and aviation related careers. In the 2016 calendar year, 20% of Tuskegee Next cadets came from this program. Starting the tradition of giving back, cadets taught junior cadets what they've learned and shared their experiences in the program.



## A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE

With the support of our donors, the cadets had the opportunity to go to the EAA Airventure Airshow in Oshkosh Wisconsin. The Oshkosh Airshow is internationally ranked as one of the top 10 airshows in the world. In this regard, cadets were able to experience one of the world's greatest celebration of warbirds, vintage aircraft, homebuilt aircraft and take in the engineering mechanics of aviation. In a single day, all our cadets experienced the different facets of the aviation industry and walked away understanding the endless supply of opportunities inside and outside of the cockpit.



**"TUSKEGEE NEXT IS LIKELY THE MOST IMPACTFUL STORY OF 2016 HAPPENING RIGHT HERE IN OUR GREATER CHICAGO COMMUNITY."**

Luke Slawek, President & Chief Operating Officer, FONA International





**HONORING THE LEGACY OF THE  
TUSKEGEE AIRMEN, TUSKEGEE  
NEXT TRANSFORMS THE LIVES  
OF AT-RISK YOUTH THROUGH  
AVIATION EDUCATION AND  
CAREER PATH OPPORTUNITIES,  
SO THEY CAN TRANSFORM  
THEIR COMMUNITIES AND THE  
FUTURE OF THE SKIES.**

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