



2022 Jasper Harris, Jr. Aviation Scholarship



Gibril Dyfan

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University of Washington
Aeronautics**

I never cared about aviation growing up. I did not know anyone in the field or even thought about it as a career option. I did want to be a mechanical engineer, because I was always good with building projects, math and science and many of my uncles were mechanics. It was not until I joined the air force and started being around planes more, that I began looking into the specific field of aerospace engineering. From there I became curious about the concepts around how planes and other aircraft fly. Therefore, I went for a discovery flight at the local airfield and the rest was history from there. Now I am pursuing a degree in Aeronautical Engineering and a career as an Air Force Pilot.

As I was closing out my 6-year career as an Air Force medical technician, I sat down with my commander, a black Air Force doctor who enjoyed flying planes in his free time and told him I was separating to pursue a career in aviation. He told me a great way to build my knowledge and experience with aviation was to help mentor other aviators. He got me in touch with an old classmate of his from the Air Force Academy, Mr John Frazier, because he knew of an amazing organization that was building up minority aviators in the area I was moving to, Seattle Washington. When I got there, John was one of the first people I met, in this area where I knew no one, and brought me into the RTH family.

This scholarship will allow me to garner an additional 10 flight hours with Rainier Flight Services in Renton, WA. As an Air Force ROTC cadet, I will be competing for a slot to become a pilot. Those 10 flight hours will contribute to my overall ratings for the selection process. If at all possible, the Air Force looks to take in already experienced aviators so the more hours I can build, the greater my odds for selection.

