



2023 Jasper Harris, Jr. Aviation Scholarship



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Aviation Management**

The Red-Tailed Hawks' mission of introducing underrepresented youth to aviation is the reason I am able to live my dream of being a pilot today. Being a member of the Red-Tailed Hawks has provided me assistance toward flight training and mentorship, as well as allowed me to share intelligent conversations with like minded individuals who ultimately share the same goals.

Through this experience, I have developed the traits to be able to network and cultivate meaningful relationships with a diverse group of people, who have in turn, become good friends and mentors.

Jasper Harris, Jr. was an African-American aerospace pioneer. He worked on numerous projects and government programs at The Boeing Company, eventually working his way up to an executive role. All of this was accomplished while being the only African-American at the forefront of aerospace. Jasper Harris, Jr. recognized this and dedicated a lot of time toward youth education and empowerment. Jasper Harris, Jr. had to remain resilient to make an impact in an industry that was dominated by individuals, who at the time, may have looked down on Mr. Harris, Jr. solely because of his skin color. Overcoming the feeling of being underrepresented requires an added layer of mental toughness for those who have goals of being pilots and engineers. Because of this, it is important to me that young, underrepresented individuals understand that there are people like them working to achieve the same goals.

As a graduate of the 2018 Red-Tailed Hawks FLY program, I have been privileged enough to start giving back to this program as well. I have represented the Red Tailed Hawks at multiple board meetings at the national level and was able to volunteer in the 2023 RTH FLY program. Although I do not reside in Washington, I still uphold the mission of the Red Tailed Hawks by offering my mentorship to any peer, or youth that expresses an interest in STEM or Aviation. Because of the impact the Red Tailed Hawks have had on my life, I am eager to continue giving back and upholding our mission whenever possible.