



2023 Jasper Harris, Jr. Aviation Scholarship



Cortez Geisen

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Aviation**

The RTH mission is important to me and is something I want to continue to be a part of during my aviation journey. My Junior year of high school was when I decided I was going to be a pilot, but I didn't know where to start and had no knowledge of how planes operated. I didn't have anyone to look to for advice. Luckily The Red-Tailed Hawks had mentors that could answer my questions and provided great advice. The Red-Tailed Hawks introduced me to aviation on a new level and provided me with opportunities to get involved in flying. This added fuel to my burning passion for flying and prepared me well for college.

Jasper Harris, Jr was an inspiring, excellent person, and a trailblazer for African-Americans in aviation. A take away from his legacy was his major support for youth education and empowerment in aviation. I am someone who is all about giving back to the community, specifically the youth. I will honor his legacy by coming back and inspiring the youth who want to pursue aviation and show them it can be done.

I am always trying to get involved in any aviation related activities whether it's our monthly club meetings for RTH, volunteering at the Museum of Flight, or simply just studying the Pilot's Handbook in my room. I live and breathe aviation. When it comes to flying specifically, I haven't got any chances to pilot a plane yet, but just recently I was able to pilot a glider. The special thing about a glider is that it doesn't have an engine or propeller to produce thrust. When flying, this challenges you to really use the fundamentals of flight and aerodynamics to keep the glider in the sky. It's truly amazing to fly alongside a ridge and suddenly get lifted by its current. It's almost like you're a bird. A moment like this swells my passion for flying but also serves as a reminder whenever I am off track I go back to this moment and tell myself that I could be experiencing it every day. I am dedicated to this career field and my determination that will continue to propel me forward in my piloting journey.