

"I Believe I Can Fly," was in the hearts of close to 20 high school freshmen from Newark, NJ who experienced the heights of flight during the **Newark Aviation Career Education Camp (ACE)** established by Pamela Jasper of the **Organization of Black Airline Pilots (OBAP)**. OBAP is a non-profit organization founded to enhance, advance and promote opportunities in aviation. An annual program, this was the camp's first year, which was based at Newark Liberty International Airport.

The ACE program is designed to expose youths to the wide variety of opportunities in aviation through field trips, seminars, workshops, and actual aircraft flights. The Newark ACE Camp ran May 12-16, 2008 and included visits to points of aviation interest in New Jersey, including Jet Aviation Teterboro, Newark Airport, the Buehler Space Challenger Center and the Mercer County Community College Airport **for actual student flights!!!** Students also participated in the Newark Airport Career Expo and sat inside of a C5 aircraft!

Ms. Pamela M. Jasper, Director of the OBAP Newark ACE Camp, is one of only fifteen African-American female pilots in New Jersey. Her annual program will expose participants not only to aviation careers but also aviation history, flight theory, aerodynamics, women in aviation, and the financial side of the industry. This year's camp involved innovative methods such as relevant **cultural hip hop** themes to bond the students and inspire them for greatness. **A believer in eating healthy**, Ms. Jasper worked with **Whole Foods** West Orange NJ to donate healthy organic student lunches for three full days.

On May 13, **Jet Aviation**, a leading worldwide business aviation services company, gave the campers a behind-the-scenes tour of its U.S. headquarters in Teterboro, NJ, which included a tour of Mr. Bill Cosby's jet aircraft, a Gulfstream 4 named after his wife 'Camille'. Friends and supporters of the OBAP Camp were invited to attend a welcome reception and press conference preceding the tour at Jet Aviation.

On May 14, each camper got to fly an airplane for the first time in their life!! They each sat behind the cockpit of a Skyhawk 172 and performed take off and landings by themselves (with a licensed senior flight instructor).

Additional participants and supporting sponsors of the Newark Aviation Career Education Camp included: Boeing, The Port Authority of NY and NJ, FlightSafety International, Whole Foods, The Marriott Hotel Newark Airport, Jeppesen, Pratt & Whitney, the Aviation Hall of Fame & Museum of New Jersey, and the Mercer County Community College Aviation division. Participating Newark High Schools included **Barringer, East Side and Science Park**.

Presenters and keynote speakers included **Rev. Deforest Soaries** (former NJ Secretary of State), **Mr. Clarence Beverley** (jet pilot for Mr. Bill Cosby), various OBAP airline pilots, local flight and ground instructors, the Newark Police Department Aviation Unit (**Ken Solosky**), an FAA Air Traffic Controller, Bill Murphy a disabled Freedom Wings pilot (Freedom Wings provides flying opportunities to disabled individuals), The Hip Hop Cultural Center of Harlem, the Civil Air Patrol, Newark Airport Senior Management including **Mr. John Jacoby and Mr. Huntley Lawrence**, Newark Airport Operations personnel, a Newark HS Aviation / Robotics teacher and the camp director.

OBAP Newark ACE Camp – Photo Story

On Day 1 we registered the students with tshirts, starter bags, and name tags. Ms. Jasper made opening remarks along with Willie that welcomed campers and informed them of airport operational and emergency procedures. Campers included the director, all students, 3 airline pilots (Ms. Chrystal Dunbar, Mr. Donald Gardner and Mr. Noel Leslie), OBAP Virginia Ace Camp Director Robert Newkirk and various Newark Public School chaperones including Ms. Denise Crawford. We were located in Building 79 at EWR, the 'Snow Desk' which managed the snow removal vehicles and ops for the entire airport. As such we had the best views of all runways. Students were taught about the snow removal process at the airport, noting that the machines can remove snow and ice in 12 minutes on an 11,000 foot runway!!

Students were also introduced to what Ms. Jasper calls "Jasperisms" such as "What makes an airplane fly?..... Money!", "Whats a girl pilot's best friend?..... altitude, and diamonds!". Such phrases were used to anchor student attention when needed throughout the course of the camp.

Day 1 included various speakers and then a cultural bonding presentation from the Hip Hop Cultural Center. Here, students got to listen to a DJ spinning real live hip hop records (remember records ?) while being coached on principles of leadership, self empowerment, and being a team player. Students broke into competing groups, and got to break dance and spin records ...one was renamed Grandmaster 'G' and Captain King!!! By the end of the exercise, the entire group was a team, alive, and open to the next experience.

After a healthy snack from Whole Foods, we then went to Buehler Challenger Center in Bergen County NJ. Here the students learned about NASA, and what it would be like to work as either a ground control crew, or an astronaut!!!

On Day 2, we started out at Newark Airport, Building 79 where we registered students and listened to a lecture by teacher Keith Guarino of Barringer HS. Campers included the director, all students, 3 airline pilots (Mr. Antonio Smith, Mr. Donald Gardner and Mr. Noel Leslie), and various Newark Public School chaperones including Ms. Denise Crawford and Mr. Willie Mays.

Mr. Guarino talked about his program which includes a robotics team at the school. He gave a presentation on robotics, including an in class demo of a "lego" robot! Keith also talked about his aviation mechanic program. Barringer is a Newark Public HS.

Students were then bused over to Teterboro Airport to the **Aviation Hall of Fame Museum**. Here students participated in the **Dare to Fly program**, a 4 hour program that included instruction in flight theory and aerodynamics, helping to prepare students for the following day's actual flights. Students broke into competitive teams, got to tour the museum, built wooden aircraft and flew them in a competition, again demonstrating the principles of flight. The students ate lunch from Whole Foods at AHOF.

Campers then went to **Jet Aviation** Headquarters at Teterboro Airport where Jet Aviation hosted a press conference for the Newark ACE Camp and a tour of their facility. Patrick Sniffen, Jet Aviation Marketing head Welcomed the ACE Camp group. Pamela Jasper congratulated the students and discussed her inspiration for creating the Ace Camp – her grandmother. Keynote speaker **Rev DeForest Soaries** spoke to the youth about believing in themselves, citing lyrics of the song **I Believe I Can Fly**. **Mr. Clarence Beverley** talked about how he became a celebrity pilot for the Cosby's and offered the students inside tours of Mr. Cosby's aircraft!!

OBAP Newark ACE Camp – Photo Story

The group then broke into two, one touring the FBO Facilities and the '**Camille**', the other touring **Flight Safety International**. At Flight Safety, students sat in professional 'life sized' simulators of corporate jet aircraft which professional pilots actually use for flight training. While this was very inspirational to the students, for pilots like Don Gardner, airline pilot with ComAir, viewing the simulators reminded them of upcoming routine work!!!

All students participated in all tours and got to see Mr. Cosby's aircraft....awesome.

On Day 3 campers got to actually fly an airplane!!!

We arrived at Mercer County Community College – Trenton Airport flight school at 9am, got breakfast and started a ground school lesson, reviewing communications, weather and the controls of the aircraft. Students each got a keepsake photo of themselves in the cockpit while the instructors took students up in groups of three for their discovery flight. Students flew from Trenton to Robbinsville and Somerset and back to Trenton. They flew over the six flags amusement park and took personal photos. Each student got to takeoff and land the controls with minimum instructor input. Awesome!!!!

After the flight, the afternoon included Chinese food, and playing on the schools ground simulators. Ms. Jasper further instructed the students on spins, weight and balance and other principles of flight. The campers then adjourned.

OBAP Newark ACE Camp – Photo Story

On Day 4 all campers boarded at the Marriott Hotel at the Newark Airport and participated in the Port Authority's Career Expo. The day included touring a helicopter, a Fedex aircraft and the National Guard's huge C5 aircraft. We then had lunch from Whole Foods, and returned to the Marriot for an ACE Camp Closeout session with Ms. Jasper.

Closing speakers included Ed Garcia, FAA Air Traffic Controller at Newark Liberty International Airport. Ed gave the students the insider scoop on what its like to be a controller and ways they can pursue this career.

Mike Humphreys, OBAP Airline Pilot with Continental Airlines gave an interactive presentation in which students got to participate in a 20 minute simulation of a live commercial flight Volunteer students played various professional 'roles' including Captain, First Officer, Flight Attendants and Flight Dispatchers.

Ken Solosky and Captain King from the Newark Police Dept Aviation unit gave a moving presentation about their varied duties and their surveillance helicopter.

Bill Murphy is a soaring pilot and flies with Freedom Wings. He is wheelchair bound and brought his canine aide Montgomery to discuss the ways in which aircraft can fly without an engine. Awesome!!!

Mr. John Jacoby Newark Airport General Manager gave final remarks to the students, thanking the campers for choosing Newark Airport and to remember the principles of success.

Ms. Jasper then concluded with pop quizzes, **Jasperisms**, the principles of success such as writing goals on paper, having goals for each stage in life and thinking **BIG**, citing black aviation achievers who earn over \$10 million every year. Each student was asked to write down on their notepads their name, their future profession, and a goal salary of over \$10 million. Some students began to believe they could earn this. Students were then each given a goodbye gift bag, courtesy of **Jeppesen a Boeing Company**. The professional flight bag included the Jeppesen Private Pilot Manual (a textbook worth over \$100), a sectional chart used by small plane pilots, a plotter and an 'e6b' calculator used by small plane pilots and a guide book of most colleges in the country who have an aviation degree program (courtesy of **UAA – University Aviation Association**). The students then adjourned with warm sloppy hugs and kisses.