

the Daily

Saturday, March 23, 2024



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Login instructions for the app:
Once you have uploaded the app, enter your email and badge ID login credentials to access the My Planner functionality, including communication with speakers, exhibitors, and other attendees.

Join the Conversation

Help share the excitement of attending the 35th Annual Women in Aviation International Conference by using these hashtags on social media.

#WAI2024
#IamWAI #WeAreWAI
#WomeninAviation
#WomeninAviationInternational



Watch WAI On Air

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Celebrate Girls in Aviation Day!

Saturdays at the WAI conference are full of fun and learning with the youthful energy of hundreds of girls and young women, courtesy of Girls in Aviation Day Orlando. This year, girls aged 8-18 will earn their WAI Aviation Fun Patch by participating in nearly 30 activities from flying an aircraft simulator to exploring the latitude and longitude of a giant moon map. Along with the numerous STEAM activities, girls will meet Kara, a member of the U.S. Air Force falconry team, and learn about aviation maintenance and engineering including basic circuitry, riveting, and creating aviation jewelry with mechanical tools. Other station highlights include instrument testing, composite resonant fusion, ATC simulations, drone engineering and flights, airport design, robotics coding, and much more.

For the older girls, they will visit a college and training fair with 14 participants including the military, universities, flight schools, and airline pathways. The fair will offer information about their aviation-focused programs and career opportunities to pursue for attendees focused on their future.

A stellar "The Sky is Unlimited" career panel will include Cmdr. **Anne Bruckman**, U.S. Navy Commanding Officer; **Andrea Deyling**, Airship Pilot and LTA Research VP of Flight Operations; **Evie Garces**, American Airlines VP of Line Maintenance; **Theresa Parker**, FAA Air Traffic Control Specialist and Safety Inspector; **Sanchia Rivera-Bechno**, Signature Aviation Regional VP of Operations; **Joi Schweitzer**, American Airlines Pilot, Actress, Motivational Speaker, and Author. These women will share their personal aviation journeys, offer advice to the participants, and answer their questions.

The girls will have their own luncheon speaker, **Nicole Battjes**, CEO and owner of Rainbow Helicopters in Hawaii. Look out for the GIAD attendees this afternoon in the Exhibit Hall after WAI CEO **Lynda Coffman** escorts them from **Grand Ballroom 8** where they will participate in an exciting scavenger hunt starting at 1:45 p.m.

Girls IN AVIATION DAY ORLANDO

A Women in Aviation International® Event



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PAULA GRUBB



“There is no male or female leadership style, each of our leadership styles are unique to your personality and who you are.”
—Pam Melroy

The Daily is a publication of Women in Aviation International, published during the annual conference.

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Meet Our 2024 Pioneers Tonight!

A highlight of every WAI conference is the induction of women into WAI’s Pioneer Hall of Fame. This year’s inductees include **Katherine Johnson**, a legendary mathematician and NASA trailblazer featured in the book and movie *Hidden Figures*; **USAF First Undergraduate Navigator Class 78-01**, the first female class of six navigator candidates to pave the way for other women in military aviation; **US Army Air Forces World War II Flight Nurses**, a dedicated group of 500 volunteer flight nurses who served 31 medical air evacuation squadrons at the height of WWII.

The pioneers will be inducted during tonight’s Pioneer Hall of Fame Ceremony and Celebration Dinner, sponsored by Southwest Airlines in **Cypress Ballroom 2**. It is a ticketed event with open seating. Students who need tickets can gather near the doorway at 5:45 p.m. and any available donated tickets will be distributed at that time on a first-come, first-served basis. Join us as we celebrate the heroes who paved our paths in aviation and aerospace!



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EXHIBITOR SPOTLIGHT



Abingdon Co. (booth **2219**) introduced a limited edition gunmetal watch honoring the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP), who volunteered for service from 1942 to 1944. The watch is available for the first time in gunmetal at WAI2024. Abingdon Mullin, founder of the company, said the number 38 is emblazoned on the dial in memory of the 38 WASP who died in service to their country.

Boss Your Own Life

Do you have a dream that's dormant? Do you think your time has passed to pursue your passions? Award-winning newscaster, entrepreneur, and professional pilot Stephanie Goetz will show you how it's possible to pursue anything you dream in **Crystal J** at **3 p.m.** today. From making multiple career pivots to chasing after what fills her up, Stephanie will show you how to move toward your goals and dreams boldly and confidently - no matter your age or life experience.



Stephanie Goetz is a modern-day Renaissance woman. An award-winning former news and sports anchor at NBC, CBS, and ABC; Stephanie is a businesswoman; an executive communication and leadership coach; a philanthropist; professional singer; TEDx speaker, and professional pilot. She's also a flight instructor and flies an L-39 Albatros jet. Stephanie knows what it takes to step out of your comfort zone and boldly pursue your desires and dreams. She's done it firsthand and multiple times. She inspires audiences to dare to pursue their dreams and move confidently in the direction of their passions.

"I believe everyone has the ability to live their brilliance and live their best life," Stephanie says. "Many people don't dare to reach for their dreams and they end up settling for mediocre. In my session I offer real, practical, and actionable steps on how to achieve your goals and push past settling for good."

—Michelle Graves, WAI 45798



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Failure + Resilience = Success in Aviation Maintenance

Do you wonder what it's like to work as a successful aircraft mechanic? Come to **Magnolia 22** at **3 p.m.** to listen to Veronica "Vero" Leacock Borchard share her experience learning to fail fast, fail often, and learn resilience and persistence to succeed in a career in aircraft maintenance.

This year Vero focuses her workshop on the social and psychological view of how we, as women, address and process failure and rejection differently than men. "Men experience failure in middle school and high school whereas women often don't experience failure till they are college age," Vero explains.

To succeed and be happy women must learn to manage failure in their own way. "Aircraft maintenance is not for the faint of heart," she says. "Either you like it and stay or you don't." Many women get pushed out of the field because of the male dominated environment, so if they stay, it's important for them to manage failure, but manage it the way women need to, not by mimicking our male counterparts.

"In aircraft maintenance, it's common to try and be one of the guys, but we will never be one of the guys. Women cannot be molded to be one of the guys. Women need to be themselves," she says. Vero advises women to focus on self-efficacy. "Self-efficacy is not just having confidence, it's the

knowledge that you know who you are and what you can do.

"In addition to knowing themselves, women must stick together," Vero insists.

"With so few women in the field of aircraft maintenance, men may try to pit women against each other and women sometimes buy into that narrative instead of going against it and partnering to support each other. We must work together or we will never create the right environment for us," she says.

Vero shares these three essential lessons in her workshop: "Comparison is the thief of confidence. With fewer than five percent of aircraft maintenance workers women, the only way forward is to work together," she says. "I want my daughter to be proud of me. I want her to see that I work and am a strong advocate for women."

Come hear more and dialogue on the issue this afternoon!

—**Mary Woolf**, WAI 45799



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Exhibitors

(as of March 21, 2024)

- 819 AAR
816 ACES Systems
2325 AOPA-Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
101 ATP Flight School
2219 Abingdon Co.
810 ABX Air Inc
1006 Academy of Aviation
313 AerSale, Inc
2335 AeroStar Training Services
717 AeroTEC
902 Aerospace Center for Excellence / SUN 'n FUN Aerospace Expo
906 Aims Community College
1109 Air Force Civilian Service
2224 Air Line Pilots Association International
815 Air Methods Corporation
2318 Air Race Classic Inc.
419 Air Transport International
618 Air Wisconsin Airlines
2125 Airbus Americas
2333 Airshare
1101 Alaska Airlines
2330 Allegiant Air
908 Allied Pilots Association
514 Alpine Air Express
205 America's Navy
800 American Airlines
704 American Airlines Federal Credit Union
316 Ameriflight
918 Amerijet International Airlines, Inc.
2321 Association for Women in Aviation Maintenance(AWAM)
510 Atlas Air
2236 Auburn University School of Aviation
418 Avelo Airlines
617 Avemco Insurance Company
2008 Aviation Conversations
201 Aviation Retirement Strategies, LLC
619 Aviation Search Group
508 AviationJewelry.Com
210 Blue Line Aviation
500 Boeing
2105 Bombardier
2316 Born of Ashes LLC
2004 Bose Corporation
2212 Breeze Aviation Group
1018 CAE HQ
1001 CAMP Systems International
916 California Aeronautical University
611 Cape Air
2334 Castle Aviation
517 Cessna and Beechcraft by Textron Aviation
511 Cirrus Aircraft
312 CommuteAir
2106 Contour Aviation
2206 Convergence Data
911 Corporate Wings
620 CrossCheck Hub
2233 Customs and Border Protection Air and Marine Operations
900 David Clark Company
2025 Delta Air Lines
2131 Delta State University
2315 Duncan Aviation
2232 Elevate Aviation Group
1008 Elevated Access
2311 Embraer
412 Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
2128 Empire Airlines
2018 Endeavor Air
801 Envoy Air
1108 Equus Flight Academy
413 Executive Jet Management
603 Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA)
920 FAA - Airman DUI/DWI Program
1117 FAA Civil Aerospace Medical Institute
919 FAA Human Resource Management
2327 FedEx
2331 FedEx Employees Credit Association
901 Flexjet
409 FlightSafety International
2102 Flight Uniforms
2209 flyexclusive
1116 Freedom Aviation Network
2010 Frontier Airlines
516 Gleim Aviation
310 Global Aviation Data
300 Global Crossing Airlines Inc
716 Global Medical Response
306 GoJet Airlines
714 GrandView Aviation
2225 Gulfstream
610 Hawaiian Airlines
318 Hemlock Films
2115 IFOD Institute of Flight Operations and Dispatch
706 ISA+21
209 JSX
811 JSfirm.com
2104 Jet Linx Aviation
614 jetBlue
2217 Latino Pilots Association (LPA)
2133 Leading Edge Financial Planning
417 Leiden University
2028 Liberty University School of Aeronautics
1017 Life Flight Network
2005 LifeLine Pilots
720 Lockheed Martin
909 M & H Uniforms
2130 Mamava Inc
809 Mcneely Charter
1016 MedAire Inc
1005 Mercy Medical Angels
521 Metro Aviation, Inc.
712 Middle Tennessee State University
2230 Mountain Air Cargo
904 MzeroA Online Ground School
1112 NASA Aeronautics
2109 NBCFAE National
1019 NOAA Aircraft Operations Center
515 National Air Traffic Controllers Association
914 National Airlines
711 National Business Aviation Association (NBAA)
2110 National Gay Pilots Association
1010 National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
1003 National Nuclear Security Administration NNSA
315 National Transportation Safety Board
307 NetJets
2320 Ninety-Nines
2007 Northern Jet
208 Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals
421 PASS National
1111 PHI Aviation
707 PSA Airlines
715 Pearls With Purpose
2006 Phoenix Air Group, Inc.
2108 Phoenix East Aviation
700 Piedmont Airlines
1007 PlaneSense, Inc.
2003 Premier Private Jets
820 Procter & Gamble
416 Professional Asian Pilots Association
814 Professional Women Controllers (PWC)
2119 RTX/Collins Aerospace/Pratt & Whitney
607 Republic Airways
2239 Ricardo Belverly Hills
713 SKYTECH, INC
2317 SUU Aviation
615 Saint Louis University
319 Sierra West Airlines
1013 Silver Airways
2111 SkyWest Airlines
2312 Solairus Aviation
2120 Southwest Airlines
910 Southwest Airlines Pilots Association
601 Space2inspire
2231 Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology
915 Spirit Airlines
2016 Spitfire Elite Consulting
2336 Stratus Financial
2009 Sun Country Airlines
1015 TES
415 Telex Aviation Headsets
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907 Travelpro
519 Turbine Capital
1102 U.S. Air Force Recruiting-Det 1
1009 U.S. Coast Guard
302 UPS Airlines
719 USA Jet
2241 USI
2135 Unifi Service
301 United Airlines
2234 United Ground Express
2014 University Aviation Association
317 University of North Dakota
2208 Utah State University Aviation Technology
1014 Vertical Aviation International
2237 Visionary Training Resources Virtual Reality
2213 Vista
818 Volato
708 Walmart Aviation
2319 West Star Aviation
808 Western Michigan University College of Aviation
204 Wheels Up
1011 Whirly-Girls International
613 Wings Financial Credit Union
2314 Wings For Val Foundation Inc.
1100 Women Military Aviators
600 Women in Aviation International Membership
812 Women in Aviation Purdue University Chapter
709 Women in Corporate Aviation (WCA)

Cypress Alcove 1
Authors Connect
WAI Merchandise

Cypress Alcove 2
BodyWorks Attendee Wellbeing
Mamava Inc

Cypress Alcove 3
Professional Headshot Area
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2024 Exhibitors

Visit over 200 exhibitors, including aerospace companies, airlines, associations, manufacturers, military, museums, and universities.

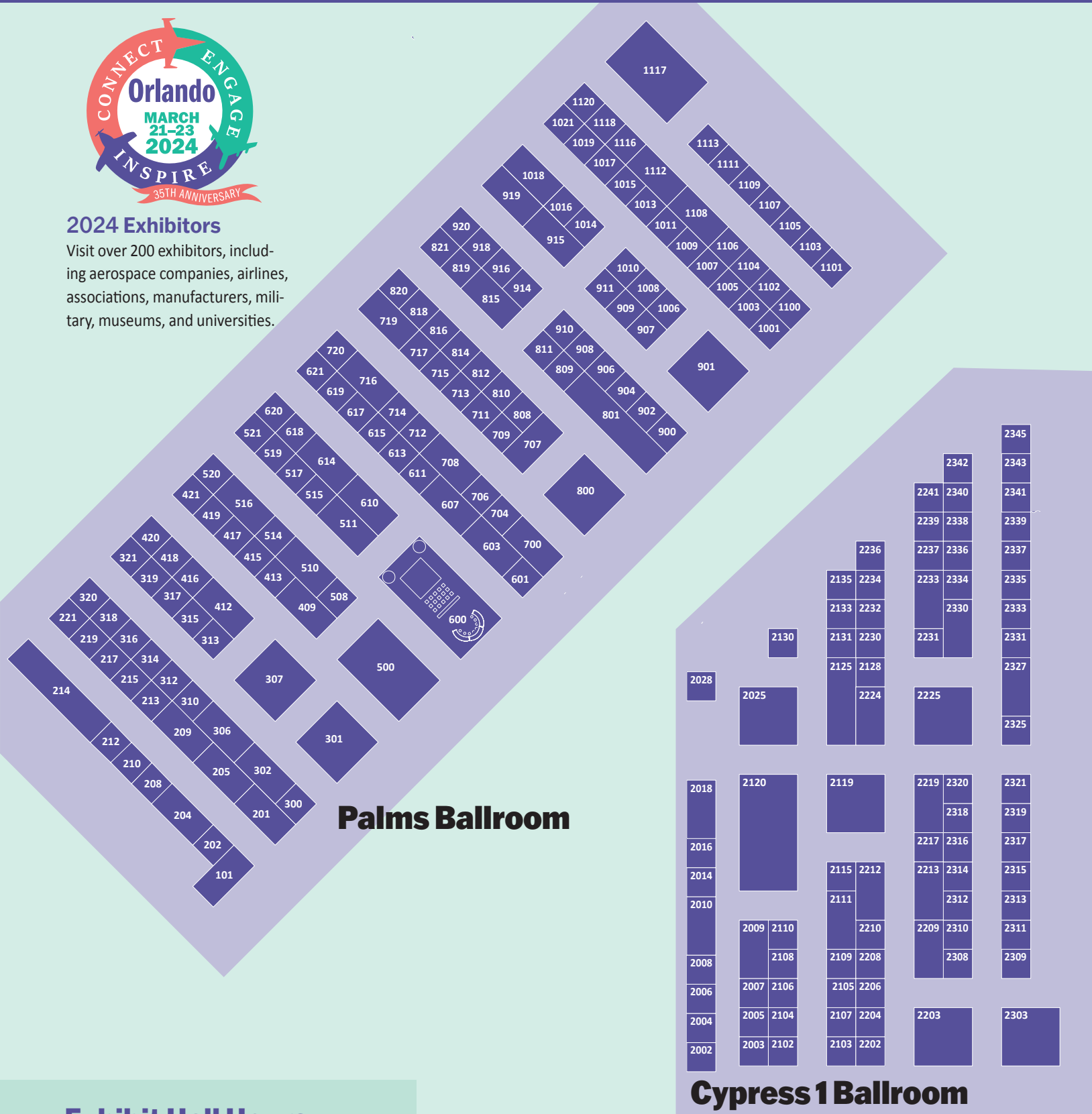


Exhibit Hall Hours

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SATURDAY, MARCH 23
10:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

EXHIBITOR SPOTLIGHT



Western Michigan University and JSfirm were excited to announce their partnership at this week's WAI2024 conference. Tom Thinnes, Recruitment, Marketing, and Outreach Director for Western Michigan University College of Aviation commented, "Western Michigan University's College of Aviation is incredibly excited to be partnering with JSfirm.com."

"This partnership is truly monumental for JSfirm.com," Laurie Elliott, Partnership Manager for JSfirm.com said. Both exhibitors are across the aisle from each other. Come visit them in the Palms Ballroom.

Internship Intensive

What should students plan for a high-value-add semester with a company?

Carly McDonald flew on board a twin-engine propeller aircraft as an unforgettable culmination of her internship with the defense contractor and manufacturer. Isabella Gianni took the job that no pilot wanted at a Part 135 operator in Alaska: pumping out the floats. Jack Bergsman wrote the NOTAM that officially closed the runway at Stuart airport in Florida and helped set up the Xs. And Catherine Cummings ran students through the full-motion flight simulators while they toured the flight ops center at Delta Air Lines. These were just a few of the amazing moments that went beyond the position advertised that were illuminated during the "Internships and Co-Ops: Start Gaining More Insight of Opportunities in the Aviation Sector" professional development seminar on Thursday afternoon. The bottom line for students: Apply for what you dream of, tighten up your resumé, highlight your soft skills as well as any technical ones, and call upon mentors to help you refine your pitch during the interview. And take heart: "Don't get discouraged going after the first one," Jack said. "It's the hardest." You may make 119 applications, like Carly, but you can end up seeing your project literally fly. "The passion shines, and speaks for itself," she said.

—Julie Boatman, WAI 9407



JULIE BOATMAN

The panel included recent interns from across the aviation industry. Left to right: Isabella Gianni, Catherine Cummings, Carly McDonald, Jack Bergsman.


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Heard in the Exhibit Hall

“We are here to share stories and help people with their learning needs to use our products and be part of their lives.”

Deirdre Wilson, MzeroA

“We are here to promote the organization. Also to inspire women and my daughter who is here with me.”

Rebecca Torres, A recipient of the Wheels Down South Chapter scholarship ATL division/2024 Whirly-Girls International



JOHN RIEDEL



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ANDREW ZABACK

“I’m here to meet people, connect with them and empower individuals to help them with their mental health using a holistic approach.”

Ashley Taylor
Born of Ashes LLC



MIKE ULLERY



RICH SPOLAR

“We are here to network, meet people in the industry, and let them know what we can do for them.”

Ellen Martin and Rachel Adams
Convergence Data



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“We build watches for women who do more. We cater to all sorts of women in all industries. I am also here to network and find a school where I can pursue a career in aviation.”

Sophia Callamaras
Abingdon Co.

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PRESENTING



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ADDITIONAL



EDUCATION SESSIONS

SATURDAY MARCH 23

	Crystal H	Crystal M	Crystal J	Crystal N	Magnolia 16	Magnolia 20	Magnolia 22
1:45-2:45 p.m.	Navigating a Pilot Interview with Confidence and Resilience <i>Career/Leadership</i>	Airline Pilot Panel <i>Career/Leadership</i>	The Working Daughter <i>Career/Leadership</i>	How to Be an Ally in the LGBTQ+ Aviation Community <i>Career/Leadership</i>	Taking the Lead: Women as Instructors and Role Models in Aviation <i>Career/Leadership</i>	The Rollercoaster of Search and Rescue Flying <i>Career/Leadership</i>	NTSB – Where safety is no accident! <i>Career/Leadership</i>
3-4 p.m.	Taking Flight Together: Empowering Young Women in Aviation through Dual Enrollment <i>Career/Leadership</i>	Sexual Harassment - Where to Go and What to Do <i>Career/Leadership</i>	How to Be a Boss in Your Own Life: Boldy and Confidently Pursuing Your Dreams <i>Career/Leadership</i>	Airspace Invasion <i>Emerging Technologies</i>	Perspectives & Boundaries: Navigating the Biases We Face Throughout Our Careers <i>Career/Leadership</i>	Family Planning and Flying in the Military <i>Military</i>	A License to Learn <i>Maintenance/Tech Ops</i>

SATURDAY,
MARCH 23
General Session

9-10:30 a.m. • Cypress Ballroom 2

Keynote Speakers
Nicole Battjes
Erica Brand
Teri Bristol

**Girls in Aviation Day
Orlando Program**

For girls ages 8-18
and chaperones

8 a.m.-3 p.m. • Grand Ballroom 8
(preregistration required)

**WAI
Pioneer Hall of Fame
Ceremony
& Celebration Dinner**
Sponsored by Southwest Airlines

6-8 p.m. • Cypress Ballroom 2
(ticket required)

Media Center Hours

Magnolia 4

Sponsored by Gulfstream

SATURDAY,
MARCH 23

8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Exhibit Hall Hours

Palms and Cypress 1 Ballroom

Sponsored by Envoy

SATURDAY,
MARCH 23

10:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

OPEN SEATING

For Celebration Dinner,
you must present the appropriate ticket from your
registration packet for seating.

If you are unable to attend a meal function, please
donate your ticket at the Information Center. Donated
tickets will be given to students.

STUDENTS

Please check at the Information Center for donated
tickets.

STUDENTS CELEBRATION DINNER SEATING

If you do not have a donated ticket, be in the
Cypress 2 Ballroom area by 5:45 p.m.

If there are available tickets, you will be provided a
ticket by WAI staff.

Industry Briefings

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

Magnolia 13

10:30-11 a.m. – Destination 225° Pilot
Pathways Program

11:30-noon – Southwest Airlines - First Officer

Crystal K

8-8:45 a.m. – US Air Force

11-11:45 a.m. – The Boeing Company –
“Diversity in Disciplines”

noon-12:45 p.m. – Federal Aviation
Administration (FAA)

1-1:45 p.m. – Endeavor Air

Industry Partner Events

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

Air Force - Reception Room

8 a.m.-4 p.m. • Washington Room

Southwest Airlines - Hospitality Room

8 a.m.-5 p.m. • Magnolia 13

Delta Air Lines - Pilot Recruiter Meet and Greet

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. • Diamond Suite

Authors Connect

SATURDAY,
MARCH 23

The Authors Connect booth is located in **Cypress Alcove 1**.

10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Loree Draude

*Soar Into Joy: A Combat Pilot's Wisdom on Falling in Love with
Your Life; She's Just Another Navy Pilot: An Aviator's Sea Journal*

Ashlee Leppert

The Hurricane Within

Daine Meszaros

*Ava the Aviator: The Adventure Begins; Ava the Aviator:
The Adventure Continues*

12-1:30 p.m.

Cecilia Aragon

*Flying Free: My Victory over Fear to Become the First
Latina Pilot on the US Aerobatic Team*

Shahd Majeed

Earning My Wings: A Story of Life after Death

Jolanda Witvliet

*The Airline Transition Manual: A Pilot's Guide to Scholarships &
Grants*

1:30-3 p.m.

Eileen Bjorkman

*The Fly Girls Revolt: The Story of the Women Who Kicked Open the
Door to Fly in Combat*

Kimberly Dougherty

Airpower in Literature: Interrogating the Clean War, 1915-2015

Caroline Jensen

Thundermouse

3-4:30 p.m.

Patty Bear

*From Plain to Plane: My Mennonite Childhood, a National
Scandal, and an Unconventional Soar to Freedom*

Becky Condon

She Flies

Erin Miller

*Final Flight, Final Fight: My Grandmother, the WASP, and
Arlington National Cemetery; What Grandma Did*

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