

# Inspiring Girls to Soar



On September 20, 2018, The Ohio Regional Business Aviation Association (ORBAA) is partnering with Dreams Soar, Inc, The PAST Foundation, and I Know I Can to launch the inaugural **Girls Soar: Exploring STEM Careers in Aviation** at The Ohio State University Airport.

**Representation Matters.** The initial day-long, event will feature Shaesta Waiz, who in 2017 completed a historic solo flight circumnavigating the globe in a single-engine aircraft to promote STEM careers to young girls and boys. She will headline the September event to inspire attendees with her story - from her start in an Afghan refugee camp, coming to the U.S. and attending an underprivileged school, and finally completing her flight - inspiring over 3,000 youth during her mission. Shaesta, through Dreams

Soar, travels the world encouraging other girls to pursue education and careers in STEM and aviation, and more importantly, to work hard to follow their dreams.

In addition to hearing from Shaesta, the day will include hands-on STEM activities developed by the PAST Foundation with facilitation supported by OSU Women in Engineering, Center for Aviation Studies and students from Columbus State.

**Endless Opportunity.** Women are an underserved population in aviation — an industry facing a global shortage of pilots, aircraft mechanics, and other career fields. The goal of this event is to excite middle school-aged girls about aviation and STEM so they will sign up for STEM classes — better preparing them for careers in aviation.

**Only The Beginning.** The goal of this workforce development, proof of concept program is to create a lasting passion for entering the aviation field and helping students prepare to be successful in their career trajectory. However, we need more than one day. Our goal is for middle school exploration to lead to career orientation and, ultimately, students who are career ready.

Investments in this program will provide front-loaded, core funding for an aviation-based STEM program for Columbus area students and later, the program will be expanded nationally. By investing now, the program will be free of charge for school systems. The design challenges developed will focus on Next-Gen Science Standards and present sustainable take-and-go materials for educators and aviation outreach organizations. We will also expand into longer learning sessions, hands-on experience, and a summer camp experience, while creating connections with industry professionals.



**Result Driven Work.** The PAST Foundation and ORBAA will work together to capture baseline data as the event is beginning and a post-event survey to determine any additional interest in aviation. For the initial proof of concept phase, we will survey educators to determine implementation and effectiveness of the STEM design challenges.

**You Can Make an Impact.** Thank you for considering an investment in **Girls Soar: Exploring STEM Careers in Aviation**. Your support in the inaugural Girls Soar event will allow an opportunity for middle school girls to come together and learn from industry professionals, in addition to meeting Shaesta, the youngest woman to fly solo around the world in a single-engine aircraft. Hearing Shaesta's story in person is guaranteed to inspire everyone in attendance to follow their dreams. These girls will inspire and challenge each other while learning about becoming pilots, mechanics, air traffic controllers, and aerospace engineers. Your investment will also ensure the development of an ongoing aviation-based STEM program to keep students learning. With your help, we can inspire and educate the next generation of aviation professionals. Girls Soar will begin in central Ohio, but after the initial phase will be disseminated nationally, with ongoing support through the fundraising efforts of ORBAA as well as its access to top industry professionals.

**Your \$5,000 investment will support:**

- Development of new, aviation-focused STEM design challenges using Next-Gen science standards with middle schools in central Ohio and later expanded to national disbursement
- Programming, equipment and logistics for 120 Middle School students to participate in a day-long kick off
- The opportunity for those students to hear from and meet Shaesta Waiz

**Your \$5,000 investment will include:**

- Printed and verbal recognition during the event
- A personal thank you through the participating nonprofits extensive social media presence for your company's support
- The opportunity for your company to send one or two representatives to a reception the evening before and have their photo taken with Shaesta Waiz
- Inclusion in communications through The Ohio State University, Aviation International and NBAA
- The opportunity to provide an appropriate item for the event swag bags
- Naming opportunities are available on a first-come, first-serve basis

