



Dear Educator,

My name is Donald Gardner and I have the honor of serving as the Program Director of the Aerospace Professionals In Schools Program which is part of the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals (OBAP). Founded in 1976, OBAP is committed to making a difference by developing a pipeline of talent for the aerospace and aviation industry by introducing youth to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) based programs. These will help prepare today's youth for the workforce and enhance the professional careers of individuals already employed in the industry. Our Aerospace Professionals In Schools Program is very unique as it provides the opportunity for OBAP members to visit classrooms worldwide, in an effort to introduce children of all ages to the various and exciting career paths which exist in the aviation and aerospace industry.

One of the challenges facing the aviation and aerospace industry over the next decade will be finding enough personnel to replace the retiring workforce. This will be especially important when it comes to finding individuals interested in pursuing careers as professional pilots, as Boeing forecasts up to 465,000 new pilots will be needed over the next 19 years. Furthermore, as aircraft manufacturers continue to replace older aircraft with newer models the demand for engineers, mechanics, and other aerospace industry professionals will remain strong. Overall, we hope to convey to the youth of tomorrow that "The Sky is the Limit" in terms of what you can achieve in life! If you are interested in finding out more about OBAP please visit our website at www.obap.org. We hope that you will consider our organization for participation in an upcoming career fair or school event and please feel free to contact us at APIS@obap.org.

Sincerely,

Donald Gardner

Donald Gardner
Program Director, Aerospace Professionals In Schools
Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals