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For Immediate Release

OBAP holds Aviation Career Education (ACE) Academy in 27 cities this summer to expose 14-18 year olds to the industry.

Chicago (May 11, 2017) – The Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals (OBAP) is proud to announce registration openings for the 2017 ACE Academy, the weeklong immersive program designed to provide exposure to the history of aviation, fundamentals of aerodynamics, air traffic control procedures, aerospace technologies and introductions to aviation careers. Five ACE Academy locations; Houston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Newark and Northern Virginia have been graciously sponsored by United Airlines as part of a collaborative commitment to increasing diversity in aviation.

“OBAP is committed to doing our part to introduce the wide spectrum of aviation career opportunities, like pilots, aerospace engineers, aircraft mechanics and air traffic controllers to diverse students through the ACE Academy,” shares Captain Stephanie Johnson, director of the Cleveland ACE Academy and OBAP’s Midwest regional director. “Each year we are providing aviation exposure to nearly 700 students which has the potential to positively impact the shortage of pilots on the horizon,” adds Capt. Johnson who became Delta Air Lines' first black female captain in 2016 and recently made history again with First Officer Dawn Cook in Delta Air Lines' first all-black female flight deck.

Organized by Project Aerospace, the organization’s youth-focused initiative, ACE Academy began with two cities in 1992 in partnership with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). To date, OBAP’s ACE Academy has engaged more than 30,000 youth and exists as part of the organization’s long-term commitment to youth, spanning 22 years, which includes exposure to aerospace through Aerospace Professionals in Schools (APIS), ACE Academy, sUAS Training, Solo Flight Academy, scholarships and more.

Registration for OBAP’s ACE Academy is currently open to students who are between the ages of 14 - 18 years old in 27 cities nationwide including, San Juan, Puerto Rico and on the island of St. Croix. A second term in Louisville, KY is open to students who are



11 – 14 years old. For more information including dates, registration deadlines and requirements, please visit [obap.org /obap-ace-academies](http://obap.org/obap-ace-academies).

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About The Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals (OBAP)

Founded in 1976, OBAP is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the encouragement and advancement of minorities in all aviation and aerospace careers. The robust, and diverse, organization is on a mission to inspire excellence, Support, Transform, Educate and Mentor members and youth with opportunities in the aerospace industry from cradle to career. For more information visit www.obap.org.