



Reclaiming the Sky's "Claiming Your Sky"

Teaching "Leadership Principles" of 9/11 Aviation Courage As a "Bridge" to an Airport Job Program Outline

I. OBJECTIVE:

"Claiming Your Sky" uses the book, **"Reclaiming the Sky: 9/11 and the Untold Story of the Men and Women Who Kept America Flying"** as a "tool" to teach students "leadership principles" from the courage of aviation workers on 9/11. The program teaches high school and college students how apply these lessons to enhance their decision-making skills, capacity for empathy and understanding of aviation - while gaining opportunities for "first jobs" that can lead to careers in aviation.

The program began with "pilot" programs at Barringer High School in Newark (April, 2007) and Aviation High School in Queens (May through June, 2007) – and next is being offered to the freshman class (300 students) at Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology in Queens.

Airport employers at EWR and LGA/JFK will be given an opportunity to attend **"Employer Forums"** in NY and NJ to help the program expand it's "jobs component." Airport employers will identify qualities they look for in young applicants – as well as their thoughts on how to construct a "bridge" from the classroom to a "job." Employer input will be integrated into the curriculum.

II. HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS:

The objective in aviation, as in any business, is to focus on "customer need" - in aviation's case, to help travelers get to their destinations safely, swiftly and courteously. "Core Principles" guide aviation employees as they carry out this responsibility, including THREE core principles that lay at heart of aviation professionalism. The program will identify these core principles, as follows:

1. Students learn three CORE Principles of Aviation Professionalism

•DUTY

- If you start a job, finish it.
- Get the facts, and keep getting them. First facts can be incorrect.

- Be accountable, take responsibility for your decisions.

- TEAM-WORK**

- No one is an island – make “connections” with others.
- Get support when you need it, give it when you can.
- Communicate. Avoid isolation. Tell the truth.

- ACTION**

- Focus and do. Identify your customer’s NEED and act to meet it.
- When grieving or hurt, look for something you can do for someone, no matter how small it may seem, and that will help you move forward.

2. The program teaches students how to “match” the subjects’ actions in the book, *Reclaiming the Sky*, with these aviation Core Principles, including:

- Identify the ACTIONS the subjects in the book took, and what RESULTS did they achieve on 9/11?
- Identify the CHOICES they made that prompted them to take the courageous ACTIONS they did.
- Identify the Beliefs and PRINCIPLES they held that inspired their CHOICES.

3. Students express in a final essay their ideas for applying the principles they learn from the heroes in the book to meet challenges in their own lives. Throughout the program, students perform writing exercises to record what they learn at each stage. Their workbook becomes their “journal,” which they use to write essays to answer:

- How do the PRINCIPLES held by the subjects in the book “match” with the CORE PRINCIPLES of aviation professionalism?
- Identify a Subject and his/her Principles and tell how you’ve learned something from this aviation professional.
- If you were to ADOPT the belief and principles of the person you learned most from – express in your essay how you might apply those principles to help you meet your personal challenge.

IV. EMPLOYER FORUMS

Airport “Employer Forums” give employers an opportunity to identify qualities they look for in young applicants, and that input is then integrated into the curriculum.

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To read a story about this program in the NY Daily News by Denis Hamill, go to reclaimingthesky.com – and click on PRESS.