

Special thanks to our “Young Professional” PILOT Participants

The concept with the PILOT was to test the idea that tomorrow’s leaders could learn valuable resiliency lessons from 9/11’s aviation heroes and develop skills to meet challenges they will face in the future. We thank them for their leadership that proved this true.

Deborah Blass	Arup, Associates, Security and Risk
Carey Metcalfe	Noise Project Coordinator, Lee County Port Authority
LaTarryl Hall	Security Ops Coordinator, City of Charlotte
Ryan Thomas	Emerging Contaminants Principle, Parsons Corp
Adam Ussher	Asst Corp Counsel – Airport Services, Dane County Airport
Anna Phillips	Marketing Associate, Columbus Airport
Michael Hamilton	Airport Ops Agent, Savannah Airport Commission
Michael Gyan	Project Manager, John C. Munro Hamilton Int’l Airport
Juan Martinez	Aviation SMS Director, Chicago Dept of Aviation
Antonette Chambers	Accounts and Marketing Mgr, Clarksville Regional Airport
Kendall Griswold	HR Generalist, Greenville/Spartanburg Airport
Arjun Nair	Airport Planner, Syracuse Regional Airport Authority
Jimmy Vazques	Airside Ops Duty Mgr, San Diego Regional Airport Authority
Aireyanna Kennedy	Asst Airport Security Coord, Syracuse Airport Authority
Benjamin Torres	Aviation Security Analyst, San Diego Regional Airport
James Gerrald	Capital Programs, Jacobs
Ana Zivanovic	Info Systems Business Analyst, San Francisco Int’l Airport
Esther Chitsinde	Senior Environmental Planner, HDR
Christopher Liese	Project Manager, Munich Airport US Holding
Anandhi Mahalingam	Senior Associate, Transsolutions
Kristin Jewell	Asst Director of Aviation, Baton Rouge Metro Airport
Julie Seglem	Director of Business Development, Areas USA
Madison Strong	Safety and Security Administrator, Tulsa Int’l Airport
Roeland Visser	Manager, InterVISTAS
Jeff Taylor	Properties Manager, Jacksonville Aviation Authority
Salvatore Mendola	Director, Brands and Concept Dev, Areas USA
Brooke Bowman	Director, Brands and Concept Dev, Areas USA

Visit: ReclaimingTheSky.com

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Scroll down for their comments as well comments from the judges

“Reclaiming the Sky” Resiliency Project

An Opportunity for Aviation’s Young Professionals to Learn Resiliency Strengths from the Example of 9/11’s Aviation Heroes



Aviation YOUNG PROFESSIONALS participating in the 2023 PILOT program were asked this question: ***How valuable was it to read the stories of the 9/11 aviation heroes and have a chance to learn from them?***

“This project helped me better understand how key individuals worked together to pull a broken community and country out of pain. I feel hopeful knowing that the older airport generation supports us to become strong and well-equipped for any challenges that may come our way.” -Michael Gyan, John C. Munro Hamilton International Airport, Project Manager

“I am grateful for the opportunity to learn about pathways to resiliency created by the 9/11 heroes that can be a model for me in my career.” -Carey Metcalfe (photo, right) Lee County Port Authority, Noise and Airspace Project Coordinator



“Would love to see this book get integrated into psychology and/or business management courses since many courses don’t teach future leaders how to deal with situations where resiliency and teamwork are the most important factors.” -Antonette “Toni” Chambers, Clarksville Regional Airport, Accounts and Marketing Manager (photo, left)

“I was not even two years old when 9/11 happened, so having the opportunity to read these stories was powerful, emotional, and incredibly insightful. It is important to talk about this event and bring attention to our aviation heroes.” -Anna Phillips, Columbus Airport, Columbus, Georgia, Marketing (photo, right)



“By reading the stories of the 9/11 heroes, I learned what made them stand out both in day to day business and moments of crisis. These lessons give me hope that I might one day play a meaningful role in aviation.” -Adam Ussher, Dane County Regional Airport, Assistant Corporation Counsel, Airport Services (photo, left)

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Human Resiliency Institute at Fordham University**

“Reclaiming the Sky” Essay Judges

Today’s aviation leaders provide support for the professional development of tomorrow’s aviation leaders.



Virginia Buckingham, Exec Director of Massport on 9/11

•Very impressive essays in terms of trying to understand and apply resilience.



Cedrick Fulton, a Director at Port Authority of NY/NJ on 9/11

• I was thoroughly impressed with how each writer discerned the threads in the stories that reflect the resiliency of strong leadership and personal human connections.



Lysa Leiponis, LL Aviation Advisors, LLC. Formerly PANYNJ and Airport Director at LGA

•I believe the industry's future will be positively shaped through the dedication and resiliency of these and other Young Professionals.



Eileen Ammiano, UAL Flight Attendant Supervisor at EWR on 9/11

•With the caliber of the young men and women now developing their careers in the airline industry, the future of flying is in good hands!



John Duval, Deputy Director of Ops at Logan Airport on 9/11

•I hope experiences we had working through the events of 9/11 can provide context to the YP’s as they prepare to meet future challenges.



Debbie Roland, American Airlines Flight Attendant on 9/11

•All the essays were strong, insightful and offered an insight into what the younger generation gleans from the stories.



Kathy Denker, National VP for Clipped Wings (UAL retired F/A's)

•Response to disaster is crucial. The essays are a clear indication of the Young Professionals’ abilities to handle calamities.



Jennifer Juul, Senior Director, Business Development and Strategic Communications at SSP America

•The YP’s were inspiring in so many ways. Learning how their insights are being applied to support increasing responsibilities and career growth within aviation is simultaneously comforting and exciting. Well Done!