

# Aviation History Month

## A Virtual Online Experience

The Port Authority of NY & NJ is excited to announce a special virtual exhibit, featuring a history of Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology

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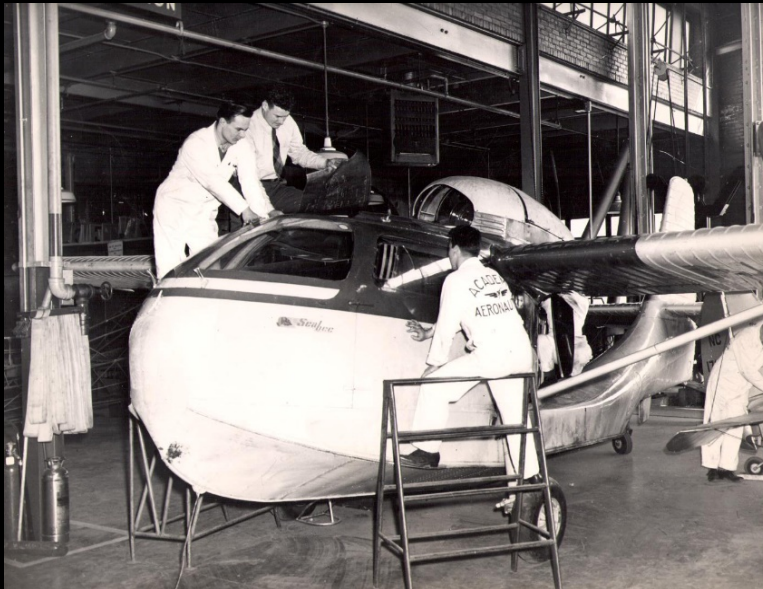
# Aviation History Month

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# Aviation History Month



National Aviation History Month is dedicated to exploring, recognizing and celebrating America's great contributions and achievements in the development of aviation – from the development of mechanical flight to the earliest attempts in kites and gliders to powered heavier-than-air, supersonic and space flights.



Students at the Academy of Aeronautics, the institution that would become Vaughn College, work on airplanes in the flight laboratory.



Aviation maintenance students at work in the Academy of Aeronautics' engine maintenance lab.

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On October 15, 1939, Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia dedicated New York City's first commercial airport constructed on the edge of Bowery Bay. Originally named The New York Municipal Airport, in 1947 it was renamed LaGuardia Airport by the Port Authority of NY & NJ. Born out of Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia's indignation at being transported to Newark Airport when his ticket said "New York," the New York Municipal Airport quickly became the world's busiest airport, serving international flights throughout the 1940s. In the 1960's, the airport was expanded with the creation of the Central Terminal Building. Decades later, the east side of the airport was developed.



Mayor LaGuardia (with shovel) breaking ground for new airport



East Elmhurst has its own unique history. Shortly after the opening of LaGuardia Airport in 1939, Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia wanted an aviation school to teach and train young people in the Aviation technologies at the new airport. The mayor asked his longtime friend, Casey Jones, to move the recently founded Casey Jones School from Newark, NJ to be near LaGuardia airport, and provided land across the Grand Central Parkway. Jones, a well-known racing pilot of the 1920s, together with his friends George Augustus Vaughn, Jr., a second ranking ace of World War I, and Lee D. Warrender, an aeronautical engineer, established the Casey Jones School. The school educated and trained 20,000 men and women who supported the nation's successful air effort during World War II. Following World War II, the Casey Jones school became the Academy of Aeronautics and returned to educating the civilian population.

In the fall of 1964, the Academy of Aeronautics conferred associate in applied science degrees for the first time, and, in 1969, the Academy was accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. In 1996, the College completely revised its curriculum offering, resulting in nine new academic programs, including for the first time, the bachelor of science and an associate degree in flight. On May 5, 1998, a state-of-the-art 35,000-square-foot addition to the building complex was completed.

In 2004 the College of Aeronautics honors one of the founders and changes its name to Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology. In 2005, the first graduate degree in Airport Management is launched.



## Our Vision

To change the world one student at a time with a transformational education that creates a lifetime of opportunity.

## Our Mission

To provide a dynamic learning environment built on our aeronautical heritage that inspires a diverse and committed community of students to achieve success as leaders in the industries we serve.

Over its years in existence, Vaughn College has supported the people of Queens through the quality education it provides and the opportunities stemming from that. Vaughn has been a mainstay for educating Queens' residents, many who are first-generation Americans and first-generation college students who have come through its doors and landed in successful careers in aerospace. Many Vaughn alumni have gone on to work at Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Grumman, NASA among others



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# Dr. Sharon B. DeVivo, President



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Unanimously chosen by the Board of Trustees, Dr. Sharon B. DeVivo assumed her role as President of Vaughn College on July 1, 2014. She is deeply committed to student success and creating a highly engaging educational experience both inside and outside the classroom. Her accomplishments include increasing the six-year graduation rate for bachelor's degree students from the low 30% range to 57% over the past decade, raising more than \$50 million to create top-notch learning spaces with the latest equipment and implementing two strategic plans that invest in new programs, facilities and faculty.

Her professional and community affiliations are numerous and include participation on the Queens Borough President's Aviation Advisory Council, the JFK International Airport Chamber of Commerce, the American Council on Education Women's Network for New York State and The Wings Club, a professional aviation group. Dr. DeVivo fully understands the College's dynamics and has the vision and leadership skills necessary to achieve the community's collective goals. Her priorities for the College include increasing the academic programs offered at Vaughn, developing international partnerships and implementing its strategic plan. That plan calls for programs that are responsive to economic demands, facilities and services that are the best Vaughn can offer, and a faculty and staff who are committed to the success of every student.



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Vaughn College is changing students' lives. The proof of that success was published in The New York Times. Vaughn was recognized as having the highest upward mobility rate among 2,137 colleges and universities nationwide in a comprehensive study by The Equality of Opportunity Project.

The College was noted as “an institution doing more to impact social mobility for those who start from less fortunate means,” and listed as the number one institution nationally for raising students from the bottom 40 percent to the top 40 percent in income. The report comes from a study entitled “Mobility Report Cards: The Role of Colleges in Intergenerational Mobility.”



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Terry  
Mechatronic Engineering Major

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# Port Authority Scholarships



The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, in partnership with Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology, have created the free tuition four-year LaGuardia Redevelopment Opportunity Scholarship. The scholarship is part of the agency's ongoing commitment to provide opportunities for members of the local Queens communities, especially those adjacent to the airport, to share in the economic benefits of LaGuardia Airport's redevelopment program.

First announced in April of 2019 by Governor Andrew Cuomo, the scholarships offer the opportunity for Queens students to attend Vaughn College tuition-free, with the promise of a full-time position in Aviation Operations at the Port Authority upon graduation. The scholarship is open to all students residing in Queens County, with special preference given to residents in the neighborhoods immediately adjacent to LaGuardia: East Elmhurst, Astoria, and Corona. A total of 84 applications were received over the last two years, with scholarships being awarded to eight candidates. 11 of the applicants came from the priority communities.



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# Port Authority Scholarships Announcement



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**Huntley Lawrence**  
Director of Aviation, Port Authority of NY & NJ

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# New Bachelor's Degree in Aeronautical Sciences



In September of 2016, Vaughn received approval from the New York State Education Department for a new bachelor of science degree program in aeronautical sciences. The program is designed to offer students the ability to obtain a degree that provides a broad perspective in the aeronautical sciences field, and foundation training in areas such as flight dispatch, air traffic control, aviation safety and airfield operations.



This degree was developed to provide students with the flexibility to incorporate flight qualifications they've obtained through Vaughn's associate or bachelor's aircraft operations degree programs if they choose to pursue a different career path. Both new students and transfers with flight experience will particularly benefit from the program's flexibility.



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**Lisa**  
Aircraft Operations Major

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# Vaughn Interns at LaGuardia Airport



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Vaughn students were part of a small select group of summer 2020 interns at LaGuardia Airport



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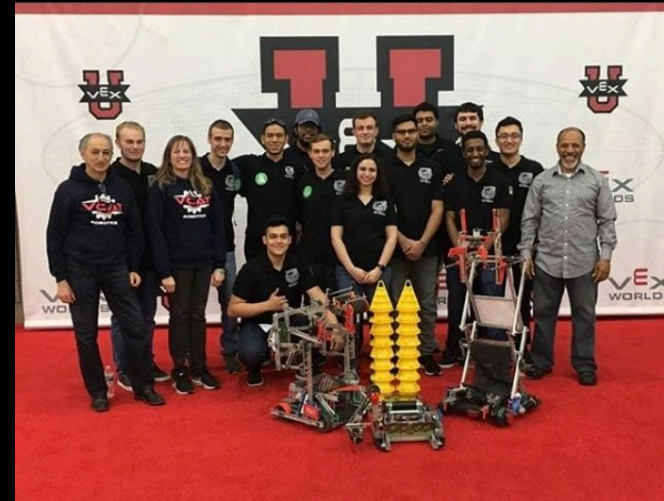


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Vaughn's 2016 Robotics Team were crowned VEX U World Champions. In 2018, The Vaughn College Robotics team competed among 89 international teams in the VEX U Worlds Competition and for the first time sent two competing teams, VCAT and VCAT 2. The competition took place in Louisville, Kentucky from April 25 to April 28. The team used mechanical, electrical and programming skills to build this year's robots for the "In The Zone" challenge. The VCAT team competed in the semifinals and placed in the top eight and the VCAT 2 team placed 25 out of 89 total competing teams.

President Dr. Sharon B. DeVivo and faculty adviser Dr. Hossein Rahemi, chair of engineering and technology, traveled with the team for the event and applauded the skills that both teams exhibited in their matches.



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## More Great Achievements



2007: Vaughn College receives approval for first Engineering bachelor's program in Mechatronic Engineering, becoming the first higher education institution in New York state to do so. It remains one of only four ABET-accredited mechatronic programs in the US and the only one in the Northeast

2007: Vaughn College opens a 200-bed residence hall on main campus

2013: New Air Traffic Control (ATC) and radar simulation laboratory is added, building on the existing \$1 million dollar flight simulator complex

2014: Vaughn College opens a newly-designed 33,000 square foot ATI facility in Astoria

\*2015: Vaughn launches new Mechanical Engineering degrees

\*2016: Vaughn began enrolling students in Electrical Engineering programs

In September 2020, Vaughn College's bachelor's degree programs in aircraft operations and aeronautical sciences are accredited by the Aviation Accreditation Board International (AABI)

*\*Both programs were approved by NY State in 2015.*



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