

POINT PAPER

BOOK PROJECT MANAGEMENT PLAN for ***BLACK WINGS OVER ARIZONA (BWOA)***

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OVERVIEW

- ***Black Wings Over Arizona (BWOA)*** began as an uncertain experiment after the end of WWII when eleven documented original Tuskegee Airmen (DOTAs) were assigned to Luke AFB, AZ.
- Additional Airmen were later assigned to Williams and Davis-Monthan Air Force Bases. Ultimately, nineteen Airmen had ties to Arizona by assignments or by families residing in the state from 1945 to 2024. The last DOTA passed away in April 2024.
- BWOA documents the outstanding commitment, dedication, performance, and contributions made by the nineteen Tuskegee Airmen during and after WWII; thus, making the world, our nation, and Arizona a better place in which to live.
- By 2021, no written document existed, so the Archer-Ragsdale Arizona Chapter, TAI (ARAC) assembled a book team led by Col. Richard Toliver to develop *BWOA*.
- The team conducted research, collected data, and drafted narratives about the nineteen DOTAs who also reflected the legacy of approximately 15,000 men and women of the WWII "*Tuskegee Experience*."

CONCEPT

- From the outset, BWOA was envisioned to be an appropriate tool for ARAC's youth outreach program in Arizona.
- Oral and/or Zoom presentations of the Tuskegee Airmen and 6888th legacies will be used to inspire and motivate students to strive for personal success despite the hurdles they may face.
- ARAC will maximize the use of Zoom and other media communication methods to reach students in all four corners of the state of Arizona, e.g., the Navajo and Apache Indian Reservations.

- In coordination with state, city, and local educational officials, ARAC plans to reach the approximately 1,000 high schools in Arizona to present both the Tuskegee Airmen and 6888th stories to inspire and motivate students.
- BWOA books, a prepared PowerPoint presentation, and video media links will be donated as complimentary gifts to school libraries to be checked out under the supervision of the teachers and/or librarians.
- Students will be encouraged to check out and read BWOA, view the links, and then write a 150-word essay to earn a \$50 gift certificate redeemable at any Albertsons/Safeway store in Arizona.
- BWOA is intended to provide permanent inspiration and motivation for every young person who will be exposed to the great legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen.

STRATEGY

- ARAC will conduct office visits and/or make telephone contact with the Governor, State Superintendent of Education, city mayors, and the appropriate officials in the Office of Indian Affairs to gain concurrence and complete follow-on coordination procedures.
- ARAC will also capitalize upon its long-standing relationships with previously visited schools to reach students. These include:
 - Dysart High School, Desert Edge High School, Estrella Foothills High School, Trivium Prep, Brophy, Mica Mountain High School in Tucson, and Cibola in Yuma.
 - Additional schools include Cooper Canyon, Arcadia, William Feld, Paragon Science Academy, Shadow Ridge, Marcos de Niza, Desert Garden Montessori, Maricopa Institute of Technology, and Marlette Community Home School.
 - In addition, ARAC will include areas where Albertsons/Safeway has a significant presence in cities such as Chandler, Mesa, Peoria, Phoenix, Surprise, Tucson, and Yuma.
- Follow-up contacts will be conducted with school librarians to gauge the utilization and impact of the books. Ultimately, ARAC intends to place books in the libraries in the estimated 1,003 high schools in Arizona.
- Initially, an estimated twenty-five schools will be visited per year, and ARAC expects to reach approximately one hundred students per visit; thus, a minimum of 2500 students will be exposed to the Tuskegee and 6888th legacy annually.

DESIRED OUTCOME

- Using the foregoing strategy, ARAC will seek to positively influence the demographics in Arizona education by empowering, motivating, and reaching often-overlooked minority youth.
- Our goal is to help raise the aspiration levels of students by introducing a hands-on, mentoring approach to their education.
- By presenting multiple examples of the success of real people, ARAC hopes to encourage and motivate students to overcome barriers in their own lives despite incredible hurdles.

MEASURE OF MERIT

- ARAC will create a robust follow-up communication plan and visitation process with the schools that receive the books.
- The gift of ARAC's book will provide the opportunity for schools to motivate students to develop historical knowledge by enhancing their skills in reading, writing, communication, and critical thinking.

SCHEDULE

- **November-December 2024:**
 - Print/purchase the first 2,000 copies of *Black Wings Over Arizona (BWOA)*.
 - Conduct preplanning meetings and establish communications with elected officials, state/district school officials, and local/regional education officials.
- **January 2025:**
 - Prepare and prioritize visits and/or presentation schedules.
 - Conduct trial presentations with selected ARAC presenters.
- **February 2025 (African American History Month):**
 - **Launch visitation program!**