

There was so much excitement. Young people moving from table to table, excited to show what they have done to deserve an opportunity to work at one of the best companies in the world. The crowd is made up of young people, parents and Moms. This is an event in Detroit, and these kids don't always have an opportunity to show corporations what they have done. I am very fortunate to have a nonprofit organization exposing these kids to aviation supported by Delta Airlines.



I have talked to dozens of organizations, parents, students, and others today eager to help kids in their community get access to education that will benefit them in their future. Lindbergh Aviation Program is dedicated to linking a path for that kid to Delta Airlines (if they get a job with another corporation or start a multi-billion-dollar tech company, we called that a success too). Today I am exhausted from speaking to so many people with the same question, "can you help my child".

I look over to my left and I notice a mother and her son. One of our volunteers comes to me and says, Mr. Johnson, could you speak to this mother. The Mother says, "no I can wait", and points to the lady in front of her. The lady replies "no you can go". The Mother introduced herself and said, this is my son Oscar. He was a tall, well groomed young man. When he began to speak, I was impressed with how articulate he was. After he finished, his mother said he was a 3.9 GPA student at Cranbrook High School (maybe the most prestigious school in Michigan. He has been accepted into one of the best summer programs in the world for youth (University of Pennsylvania, Wharton Business School, Cambridge exchange program). The scholarship was paid for, they just did not have the money for the airfare. My immediate thought was, I work for Delta, I can get him there. Even if I must pay for it myself, this well deserving young man will not lose this opportunity. I truly believe it would not only



be a missed opportunity for him, but all of us that won't benefit by what this brilliant young man will bring to our society.

After meeting Oscar I thought, this is what Lindbergh Aviation Program is here for, creating Oscars. We accept kids into our program starting at 8 years old. By the time they reach Oscar's age (14) they would have received an understanding of the science of flight, interaction with Delta Airlines professionals, hands on experiences with tech related events and other skill related programs. This kid now can enter a high school and take dual credits towards an A&P licensed mechanic position with a starting pay over \$65,000.00.

Becoming Oscar is a high bar, but you must shoot for the stars to hit the moon. For every Oscar there may be 1000 other kids with tremendous potential. We salute you Oscar, but we are determined to create more of you for our community, country, and world.

