

Alaska Airmen's Association sponsors youth motivational speaker Jessica Cox



One of the top strategic goals of the Alaska Airmen's Association is to encourage youth to discover general aviation and pursue aviation-related careers through our Youth Outreach Program. In November of 2010 the Airmen sponsored Jessica's first trip to Alaska. Ms. Cox's five day visit took her to the far western villages of Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay and Chevak, communities plagued with high suicide rates among youth. Her message prevailed; through perseverance, fearlessness and desire, you too can accomplish your life dreams. Born without arms, Jessica is a self-confident young woman who has courageously and unabashedly pursued her dream to fly. The students at Chevak High School were inspired to complete their Build A Plane project, a RAN7 in time for the 2011 Great Alaska Aviation Gathering held at the FedEx hangar and the students in Hooper Bay today greet one another with "low fives" at school assemblies.

Anvil High, a downtown remedial school for youth ages 17-20 were encouraged to reach beyond their perceived limitations and to "think outside the shoe." Jessica connected with over 350 youth attending the Military Youth Academy and a last minute opportunity came for her to visit with a very hesitant group of Wounded Warriors at Fort Richardson. Other presentations included assemblies at the King Career Center, Begich Middle School and Eagle River High School. Over 2,000 heard her message of hope.

This year we have invited Jessica back to Alaska to share her inspirational message to Alaska's youth in Lower Kuskokwim, Fairbanks and Galena communities.

The week of September 24th, Jessica will travel to Bethel to speak at the local K2, K12, Bethel Youth Facility, Yuutyaqungviat Flight School and the villages of Napaskiak, Napakiak and Kwethluk, to inspire students to reach beyond their perceived limitations.

A fundraising banquet scheduled for September 27th at the Westmark Hotel, Fairbanks, 6:00pm will help make her visit to Alaska possible. Businesses and individuals may sponsor tables that seat eight for \$1,000 each. This event will pay for Jessica's entire visit. Individual tickets are available for \$50.00 each.

Westmark Hotel Banquet Buffet Menu

*Roasted Prime Rib of Beef and Alaskan Halibut
Potatoes Gratinée and Wild Rice Pilaf
Mixed Green Salad with Bleu Cheese, Raspberry
Vinaigrette Dressing
Chef's Vegetable, Rolls and Butter
Assortment of Chef Tim's tempting desserts*

With your help we hope to inspire Alaska's youth through Jessica's message. Please contact the Alaska Airmen office at 245-1251 for more information, sponsorship and reservations. For more information on Jessica Cox, visit www.rightfooted.com.