

Malachi Neal



On May 4, 2024, Malachi Neal, a 2020-2024 R.W. Sorrell Scholarship Fund recipient, graduated from what is rated as the top aviation school in the country, **Purdue University**, with a Bachelor of Technology Degree in Aviation Management. We congratulate Malachi for reaching a milestone in realizing his life-long dream of becoming an airline/commercial/professional pilot. His interest and preparation in becoming a pilot peaked when he was introduced to the Tuskegee NEXT program, a program that honors the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen. Through this program, Malachi gained his pilot license while still in high school, and used the experience to help his community by volunteering with the Patient Airlift Services (pilots who used their private planes to fly people in need of medical transportation to locations they could not afford to go).

Throughout his tenure at Purdue, he participated eagerly in learning everything the program offered about piloting a jet aircraft. He also participated in college extra-curricular activities and never forgot the importance of teamwork and collaboration to move a project forward. During his Senior year, he became a Republic Airways Ambassador where he received flight benefits from the airline in exchange for promoting the airline on campus to other aviation students. He is now a Certified Flight Instructor and upon graduation, he excitedly accepted a job with Sebring Flight Academy where he will continue to instruct until he builds up required experience hours to pilot for commercial airlines.

Malachi extended his appreciation to the R.W. Sorrell Scholarship Fund and recognized the impact of the financial support received by stating that *“this wouldn’t have been possible if it weren’t for the scholarship. It allowed me to focus more on my studies without having to constantly worry about how I am going to pay for my books. I was able to just focus on being the best student I can be and make connections with friends and professionals that will aid me in my career and life.”*

From the point of application to the Scholarship Fund to the present time, Malachi’s email address included “future pilot.” Now he can officially refer to himself as “Malachi the Pilot.”

We look forward to following Malachi on his professional journey as he continues to develop his skills of collaboration and networking with other young professionals eager to soar in aviation. ■