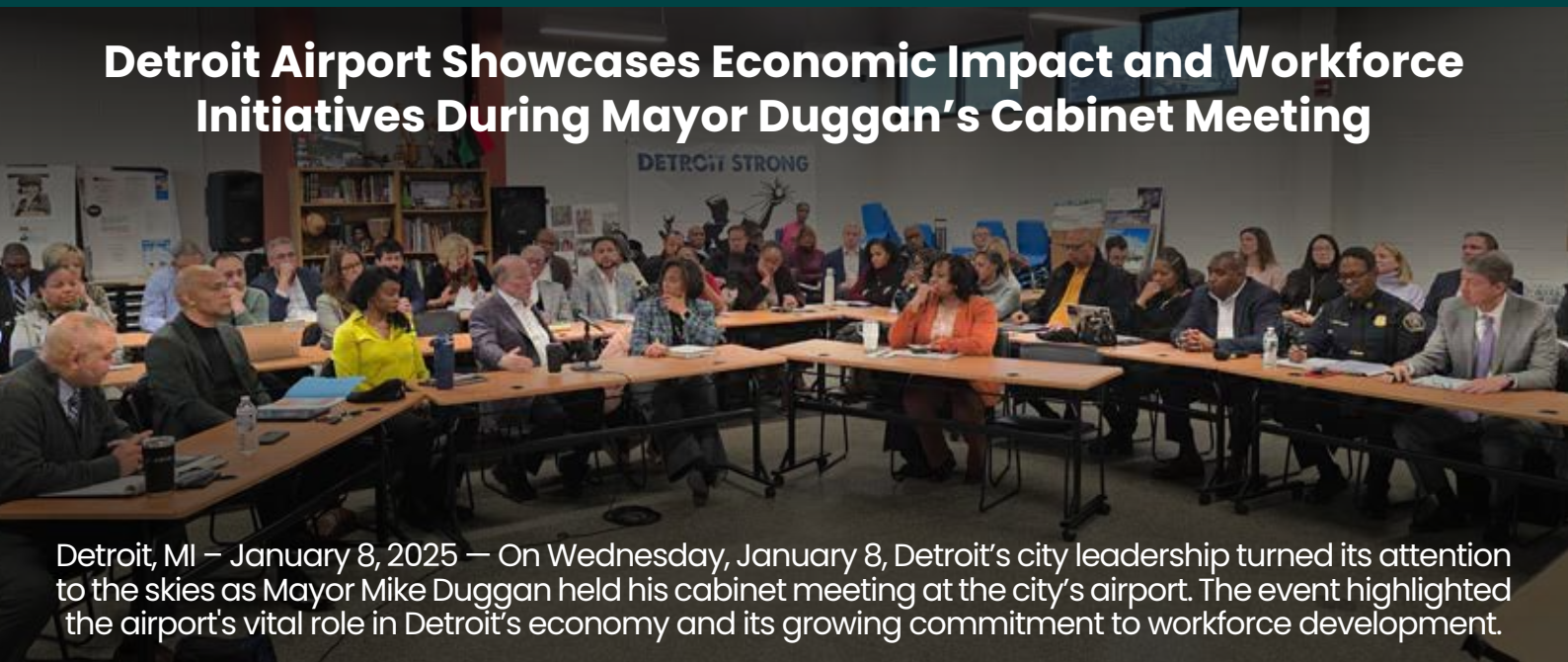




2025 IMPACT QUARTER REVIEW

Detroit Airport Showcases Economic Impact and Workforce Initiatives During Mayor Duggan's Cabinet Meeting



Detroit, MI – January 8, 2025 — On Wednesday, January 8, Detroit's city leadership turned its attention to the skies as Mayor Mike Duggan held his cabinet meeting at the city's airport. The event highlighted the airport's vital role in Detroit's economy and its growing commitment to workforce development.

During the meeting, Jason Watt, the Airport Director, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the airport's ongoing and future commercial development projects. With an economic impact exceeding \$300 million, the airport continues to serve as a powerful economic engine for the region, supporting jobs, attracting investment, and enhancing Detroit's connectivity.

In addition to the infrastructure & development updates, Ramone Crowe, Jr., Airport Community Outreach & Public Relations Manager, shared a detailed overview of the current aviation workforce initiatives. These programs aim to build a pipeline of skilled aviation professionals, engage local students, and create career pathways in aviation-related fields.

The cabinet meeting served as a platform to reinforce the airport's dual mission: driving economic growth and investing in the city's future workforce. With continued support and strategic planning, Detroit's airport is positioned to soar to new heights in the years ahead.

Coleman A. Young Airport Leads Collaborative Grant Effort to Expand Aviation Workforce Development in Detroit

In February 2025, the leadership team at Coleman A. Young Airport spearheaded a collaborative effort to secure \$1,000,000 in grant funding through the FAA Aviation Workforce Development (AWD) Grant Program. The initiative brings together a powerful coalition of partners committed to advancing aviation education and career

opportunities in Detroit and Wayne County.

The grant application was submitted on behalf of a dynamic group of stakeholders, including the Great Lakes Aviation Initiative (GLAI), Wayne County Government, Wayne State University College of Engineering, Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA),

Wayne Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA), and Coleman A. Young Airport has pledged key resources to ensure the program's success and sustainability.

If awarded, the funding will support an ambitious new aviation training program aimed at students from Wayne State University, the city of Detroit, and the

broader Wayne County community. The program will allow participants to earn a private pilot's license at Coleman A. Young Airport and will fund the purchase of critical training equipment such as flight simulators.

Flight training will be conducted by Fly By Wire, a new flight school set to open

at the airport in June 2025. The school is led by Mr. Wetzel Tucker, a distinguished aviation professional and Detroit native. A B.O. Davis High School graduate, Mr. Tucker served as an Army Apache helicopter pilot and instructor and currently flies as a First Officer for Spirit Airlines on the A321.

The Coleman A. Young Airport team and its partners eagerly await the FAA's decision on the grant awards, hoping this investment will help cultivate the next generation of aviators and strengthen Detroit's presence in the aviation industry.

Highlight Feature Article AVFuel – Janet Giganic

Janet's career at Detroit City Airport began in September 1977, marking the start of a remarkable journey in aviation. She took her first role with DCAS Inc., where she provided travelers and pilots with essentials such as candy, cigarettes, magazines, and pilot supplies. In 1979, she transitioned to Wight Airlines as a ticket agent before joining Butler Aviation in 1980.

As the airport evolved, so did Janet's career, adapting to changes while continuing to serve with dedication and enthusiasm. Today, she is a valued member of the Avflight team, where she excels as a customer service agent and ambassador. Her passion for the airport environment stems from the dynamic nature of the job—no two days are ever the same, and each one brings new challenges and opportunities.

Throughout her decades in the industry, Janet has had the privilege of meeting numerous well-known individuals. One of her most cherished memories is meeting legendary actor Paul Newman in the late 1980s.

Janet's enduring commitment to the aviation community is a testament to her love for the industry and the people who make it special. Her presence at Detroit City Airport continues to leave a lasting impact on colleagues and travelers alike, and we are so fortunate to have her at Avflight.



SkyWest Airlines Explores Charter Service Opportunities at Detroit–Area Airport



February 10, 2025, marked a significant step toward expanded air service options for southeastern Michigan. SkyWest Airlines' charter division visited Coleman A. Young Airport to evaluate the potential for offering charter flights.

SkyWest, the world's largest regional airline operating a fleet of over 650 aircraft, toured the airport and met with key stakeholders, including airport leadership, Avfuel (KDET's Fixed Base Operator), the Global Epicenter of Mobility (GEM), Washtenaw Intermediate School District, and Golden Limousine.

The visit reflects a growing interest in strengthening regional connectivity and leveraging existing infrastructure to support flexible, on-demand air service for corporate, educational, and community travel needs.

Collaboration with organizations such as GEM and Golden Limousine could support integrated ground and air mobility solutions, while discussions with the Washtenaw Intermediate School District highlight opportunities for educational partnerships and career pathway development in aviation.

This exploratory meeting represents an exciting step toward enhancing the airport's role as a regional transportation hub and aligns with broader mobility and workforce development initiatives across southeast Michigan.

Hosted Wayne RESA Aviation Meeting Wayne County Hosts Aviation and Aerospace Discussion at Coleman A. Young Airport

Detroit, MI — On February 27, 2025, the leadership team at Coleman A. Young International Airport welcomed key stakeholders across Wayne County to a pivotal meeting to enhance the region's aviation and aerospace capabilities. The meeting, hosted by the airport in collaboration with the Wayne County Coalition for Aviation and Aeronautics, was facilitated by Wayne RESA (Regional Educational Service Agency) and focused on developing a comprehensive, county-wide aviation and aerospace program.

The primary objective of the meeting was to explore innovative solutions and strategies to elevate Wayne County's position as a leader in aviation and aerospace sectors. With a growing interest in aviation technologies, workforce development, and infrastructure expansion, the discussion also emphasized the importance of strengthening collaboration between local government, educational institutions, industry leaders, and stakeholders.

Looking Ahead: The meeting concluded with a renewed sense of purpose and excitement about the future of Wayne County's aviation and aerospace sector. The participants agreed to continue their efforts toward building a sustainable and inclusive aviation ecosystem that will not only support economic growth but also provide high-quality jobs and educational opportunities for the community.



Coleman A. Young Airport Leadership Team Attends "The Future Moves With Us K-12 Education Summit"

On March 18, 2025, the leadership team from Coleman A. Young Airport was invited to participate in the highly anticipated "The Future Moves With Us K-12 Education Summit" held at Washtenaw Community College. The summit's primary objective was to foster an essential dialogue about the future of Career Technical Education (CTE) and the pivotal role it plays in shaping students' success as they transition into college and their future careers.

This event brought together leaders from diverse sectors—business, industry, education, community organizations, and post-secondary institutions aiming to co-create a dynamic and forward-thinking approach to CTE initiatives. By addressing how these stakeholders can work in tandem, the summit underscored the importance of collaborative efforts in building the pathways for student success.



**CONGRESSWOMAN
DEBBIE DINGELL & JASON WATT,
AIRPORT DIRECTOR. KDET.**

As the workforce evolves and industries continue to change, the summit highlighted the crucial need for innovation in education, ensuring that students have the practical skills and knowledge required to thrive in tomorrow's job market. The leadership team from Coleman A. Young Airport recognized the significance of this discussion and the potential impact on future generations, understanding that CTE will play a key role in aligning educational outcomes with the demands of the labor market.

The summit also provided a platform for networking and exchanging ideas on how to better prepare students for careers in sectors like aviation, technology, healthcare, and more. By engaging with key stakeholders, the team reaffirmed its commitment to supporting educational initiatives that help young people develop the skills they need to succeed in their chosen fields.

As a hub for air transportation and community development, Coleman A. Young Airport continues to be at the forefront of fostering educational and workforce development partnerships, ensuring that the next generation of talent is well-prepared to meet the challenges of an ever-changing professional landscape



Annual National Aviation Technician Education Conference (ATEC) Coleman A. Young Airport Team Engages with Aviation Industry Leaders at 2025 National Aviation Technician Education Conference



On March 16, 2025, the Coleman A. Young Airport leadership team, including Airport Director Jason Watt and Airport Community Outreach & Public Relations Manager Ramone Crowe, Jr., attended the prestigious 2025 National Aviation Technician Education Conference (ATEC) in Norfolk, Virginia. Hosted by the Aviation Institute of Maintenance (AIM), the conference brought together educators, industry leaders, regulators, and other stakeholders to advance aviation maintenance technician education.

A key highlight of the event was the strategic discussions between the Coleman A. Young Airport representatives and Norfolk Mayor and AIM's Chancellor Kenneth Alexander, and executive leadership. The primary focus was the potential opening of a new Aviation Maintenance School in Detroit, which could bring significant educational and economic benefits to the region.

AIM, the largest aviation maintenance school in the United States, is known for its robust training programs that produce skilled technicians essential for maintaining the aviation industry's high standards. The proposed expansion to Detroit represents an exciting opportunity to create a pipeline of highly trained professionals, ultimately supporting the growth of the aviation sector in Michigan.

Jason Watt emphasized the importance of collaboration in fostering local talent and providing new career opportunities within the aviation industry. "We are excited about the prospect of having AIM expand its reach to Detroit," Watt said. "This partnership aligns with our vision for the airport and the city, bringing cutting-edge education and career pathways to our community."

The meeting set the stage for further discussions on establishing a sustainable framework for the school, with a focus on workforce development, technical education, and the long-term benefits to the region.

As the aviation industry continues to evolve, initiatives like these are critical in preparing the next generation of skilled technicians, who will play a pivotal role in keeping the skies safe and the industry thriving.



JASON WATT; DR. BEN CLARK, VICE PRESIDENT OF OUTREACH & DEVELOPMENT, AIM; RAMONE CROWE, JR. PUBLIC RELATIONS AND OUTREACH MANAGER;



RAMONE CROWE, JR., KENNETH ALEXANDER, MAYOR, NORFOLK, VA; JASON WATT.

Students from ACE Academy Program Visit Coleman A. Young Airport for Aviation Career Exploration



On March 25, 2025, Coleman A. Young Airport was excited as it hosted a group of students from the Aviation Career Education (ACE) Academy Program. This event was made possible with the support of airport tenants Avflight (FOB) and MyFlight, Michigan's largest charter helicopter service. The visit gave the students an up-close experience with the aviation industry, allowing them to explore various career paths in the field.



The ACE Academy Program is designed to provide high school students with their first exposure to the aviation industry, offering them a comprehensive introduction to the world of aviation. Through the program, students gain insight into aviation history, the theory of flight, and other related subjects. The hands-on activities and field trips to aviation facilities and museums allow students to immerse themselves in the aviation world and gain valuable knowledge.

During their visit to Coleman A. Young Airport, the students had the opportunity to learn directly from aviation professionals and experience the daily operations at an airport. With Avflight (FOB) and MyFlight's involvement, students were able to see firsthand how aviation services, such as flight operations and helicopter charters, are managed. These experiences serve as valuable stepping stones for the students, helping them consider future careers in aviation.

The ACE Academy Program continues to be a vital resource for high school students, equipping them with the tools, knowledge, and inspiration needed to pursue careers in the aviation industry.

ACE

AVIATION CAREER EDUCATION



ACE 1

HALF DAYS - VIRTUAL
JUNE 23 - 26
8:00 am - 12:00 pm

ACE 2

IN-PERSON
JUNE 23 - 27
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
BRADLEY UNIVERSITY
PEORIA, IL

ACE 3

IN-PERSON
JULY 7 - 11
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
DETROIT, MI

ACE 4

IN-PERSON
AUG 4 - 8
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
MIAT COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
CANTON, MI

ACADEMY HIGHLIGHTS

- Learn about careers in aviation
- Flight simulator experience
- Drone and Rocket Demonstrations
- Each student will receive a drone, model rocket and model plane

FIELD TRIPS

- Selfridge Air National Guard Base
- Detroit City & Metro Airports

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Serving students entering grades 9th - 12th in Fall 2025
- Must have an inquisitive mind and open to new experiences



TO REGISTER SCAN CODE:

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
May 2, 2025



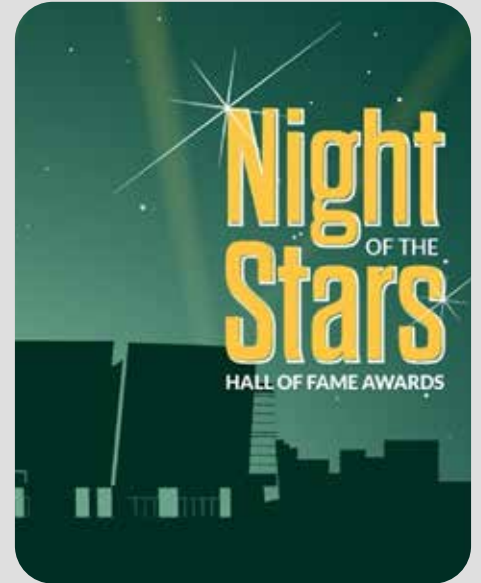
PARTNERS

BUF of Michigan • Tuskegee Airmen National Historical Museum • Airport Minority Advisory Council • Sky West Airlines • Bradley University
Wayne State University • Western Michigan University • National Black Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees • Federal Aviation
Administration • Delta Airlines • Aviation Institute of Maintenance • American Airlines • Universal Technology Institute • Kalitta Air • Michigan
Virtual Charter School • C&S Companies • Wayne County Airport Authority • Technology and Aerospace Program K-12 • Selfridge Air National
Guard Base • Enterprise Leasing Company of Detroit, LLC • Tuskegee Airmen, Civil Air Patrol, Friends of Detroit

Coleman A. Young Airport Leadership Attends Wayne State University's Night of the Stars Hall of Fame Awards

April 3, 2025 – On the evening of April 3, Ms. Denise Vaughn, Office Manager for Coleman A. Young Airport and members of the airport's leadership team had the honor of attending the prestigious Night of the Stars Hall of Fame Awards at Wayne State University (WSU). The invitation came from Dr. Ali Abolmaali, Dean of the College of Engineering, in recognition of the airport's growing partnership with the university.

Held annually, the Night of the Stars celebrates excellence and leadership across various disciplines, highlighting the achievements of individuals and organizations making a lasting impact on the community. The presence of the Coleman A. Young Airport team reflects the strengthening ties between the airport and WSU as they explore innovative pathways to expand aviation opportunities in the Detroit area.



**DENISE VAUGHN, AIRPORT
OFFICE MANAGER, AND
RAMONE CROWE, JR.**

Currently, the airport leadership is working closely with WSU in a collaborative effort to establish a flight school program. This initiative aims to open doors for aspiring pilots and aviation professionals by offering accessible training and education within the city. The proposed program is expected to play a key role in workforce development, providing students with hands-on learning opportunities and helping to address the growing demand for skilled aviation professionals.

As discussions progress, both the Coleman A. Young Airport and WSU remain committed to fostering community focused initiatives that promote education, career development, and economic growth. The airport's involvement in events like the Night of the Stars underscores its dedication to building meaningful partnerships and investing in Detroit's future.

Historic Groundbreaking at the Airport Marks First Commercial Project in Over Six Decades

April 9, 2025 — For the first time in more than 60 years, the airport witnessed a major milestone with the groundbreaking of a new commercial development. MyFlight Tours, a premier provider of helicopter tour experiences, officially broke ground on its state-of-the-art hangar and entertainment facility, signaling a new era of growth and innovation at the historic site.

The new development represents the airport's expanded role to include a destination for tourism, leisure, and economic revitalization. MyFlight Tours' facility is set to include a modern hangar to support its expanding helicopter fleet and a public-facing entertainment space aimed at enhancing the visitor experience.



**MAYOR MICHAEL DUGGAN
CITY COUNCIL MEMBER
SCOTT BENSON
CITY COUNCIL MEMBER
LATISHA JOHNSON
CITY COUNCIL MEMBER
COLEMAN A. YOUNG II**



"This groundbreaking marks not just the start of a building, but the beginning of a bold new chapter for the airport and the community," said a MyFlight Tours spokesperson. "We're proud to be the first to invest in this vision and excited to bring a new kind of experience to the skies—and the ground—right here."

Local leaders and aviation enthusiasts gathered for the event, celebrating the fusion of aviation heritage with forward-thinking development. The project is expected to bring jobs, tourism, and new energy to the area, while preserving the site's legacy as a cornerstone of regional transportation.



Construction on the facility is expected to be completed in early 2026, with operations beginning shortly thereafter.

The event can be view clicking this link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12f6ooWNmWA>



Building Stronger Nonprofits: Advocacy, Resources & Collective Action



ANDREAS ANDREAS, PRESIDENT, BLACK PILOTS OF AMERICA; DENISE VAUGHN; BEVERLY KINDLE-WALKER, PRESIDENT, FRIENDS OF DETROIT CITY AIRPORT; KEN DONALDSON, PRESIDENT, BUF: RAMONE CROWE, JR.

On April 17, 2025, Coleman A. Young Airport hosted a dynamic workshop titled "Building Stronger Nonprofits: Advocacy, Resources & Collective Action" for nonprofit community groups based at the airport. The goal? To empower these mission-driven organizations with the knowledge, tools, and connections needed to expand their impact, support airport workforce initiatives, and better serve the community.

The event featured powerful sessions led by influential leaders in nonprofit development and community advocacy. Kenneth Donaldson, CEO of the Black United Fund of Michigan (BUF), delivered a compelling presentation on “The Power of Collective Action: Strengthening Grassroots Organizations.” BUF’s longstanding commitment to community growth was on full display, with a legacy of funding impactful institutions like the Charles H. Wright Museum, the Tuskegee National Historical Museum, and the Detroit Area Pre-College Engineering Program (DAPCEP).

Attendees also heard from Ruben Morris, founder of the Alabama Aerospace and Aviation High School, who shared strategic insights in “Fundraising & Community Engagement Strategies.” Over three years, Morris successfully raised over \$6.5 million to launch and sustain the school—an inspiring example of vision matched with execution.

The workshop was made possible through the generous sponsorship of Aerospace Career Pathways, LLC, whose support underscored the importance of collaboration in driving community advancement.

Facilitated by Ramone Crowe, Jr., Community Outreach & Public Relations Manager at Coleman A. Young Airport, the event was met with overwhelmingly positive feedback from attendees. The workshop concluded with remarks from Jason Watt, Airport Director, who emphasized the airport’s ongoing commitment to being a hub not only for aviation, but for equity, education, and economic opportunity.

This workshop represents a meaningful step forward in uniting nonprofit efforts & aligning them with broader community development goals. Coleman A. Young Airport looks forward to hosting more events like this to inspire, equip, and connect local changemakers.

Tuskegee Airmen Historical National Museum Info

DETROIT LOCATIONS & OVERVIEW

1. Main Museum & Flight Academy (Coleman A. Young International Airport)

- Address: 11499 Conner St, Detroit, MI 48213
- Hours:
- Mon–Wed & Fri: 9 AM–5 PM
- Thu: 9 AM–8 PM
- Sat: By appointment only
- Contact: (313) 843 8849 | info@tuskegeemuseum.org
- Highlights:
- Houses the main youth and STEM programs (flight academy, drone club, rocket club, A&P maintenance familiarization)
- Offers hands-on learning, from glider instruction and drone flight to flight simulation and aero space education

2. Exhibit at Charles H. Wright Museum

- Location: 315 E Warren Ave, Detroit, MI 48201
- Hours:
- Mon: Closed
- Tue–Wed, Fri–Sun: 9 AM–5 PM
- Thu: 9 AM–7 PM
- Admission: Standard ticket to The Wright plus a small fee (approximately \$2) for access to the Tuskegee Airmen exhibit; members may have free access
- Exhibit Details:
- Titled “The Tuskegee Airmen: Two Victories!”, it delves into both their combat achievements and the struggle against racial segregation at home
- Features artifacts, photographs, pilot stories, and interactive displays highlighting their legacy and impact

EDUCATIONAL & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

The Detroit museum, especially the airport location, goes beyond static exhibits—it’s a living educational hub:

- Flight Academy: Year-round program for ages 14–19 offering ground school and flying lessons toward a private pilot’s license, often in surplus Air Force gliders and single-engine planes.
- Drone Piloting Club: Meets Thursdays, 6–8PM. Prepares students (16+) for FAA Part 107 certification
- Rocket Club: Hands-on activities in aerospace science for youth
- A&P Maintenance Familiarization: Introduces youth and young adults to aircraft maintenance careers
- Young Eagles Rallies: Free monthly airplane rides (April–October) for ages 8–17
- STEM Outreach Programs: Including Aviation Career Education (ACE) Academy, Aviation Career Week, and “Wild Blue Wonders” for school students

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS & DEVELOPMENTS

- Plane Wreckage Recoveries: Wreckage from Lt. Frank Moody’s P 39 aircraft (crashed in Lake Huron in 1944) is being recovered and eventually displayed at the Detroit museum
- Stone Memorials & Recoveries: A bronze statue of Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson was stolen from Rouge Park but later recovered by Detroit police

Location

Focus & Offerings

11499 Conner St.

Interactive STEM programs, flight academy, drone/rocket clubs

Charles H. Wright Museum

Permanent Tuskegee Airmen exhibit and artifacts

Community Initiatives

School outreach, Young Eagles, public events

Thanks for joining our newsletter

Stay tuned for essential updates
and important information.

**we've got you covered every
step of the way!**

