Session Proposal Form

for

2016 Mutual Concerns of Air and Space Museums Conference
New York City, planned for Spring 2016

Please review proposal guidelines on website before completing the session proposal form.
Please type form.

Type of Session please pick ONE:

☐ Panel Session
☐ Individual Presentation
☐ Discussion/Roundtable
☐ Workshop/Skill Session—please select length of workshop: ☐ 2 hours ☐ Half-day ☐ Full-day

Session Title: The CAF’s RISE ABOVE program

Session Description please limit to 200 words:

The mission of the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Red Tail Squadron is to educate audiences across the country about the history and legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen. To accomplish this, the organization has created an educational outreach program that combines a fully restored P-51C Mustang, the signature aircraft of the Tuskegee Airmen, and a 53’ mobile theater, featuring an original film “RISE ABOVE” projected on a wrap-around panoramic screen. Since 2011 the two assets have toured the country for up to 40 weeks each year, making appearances at over 115 schools, museums, air shows and events. Typically, the exhibit spends weekdays in a school parking lot and pairs up with the P-51 for a weekend event at the local airport. This has been a revolutionary program for the CAF with important lessons for other aviation museums. 50,000 people per year visit the traveling exhibit, compared to less than 10,000 to the CAF’s accredited museum in Midland. It is financially self-sufficient. And it’s had very positive cultural impact within the organization on attitudes towards diversity and youth education programming. Remember, this is an organization that started out as the Confederate Air Force!

Session Outline:

- About the Commemorative Air Force and the Red Tail Squadron
- Development of the program
- Preview of original “Rise Above” film
- How the program works
- Key lessons learned
- Future CAF outreach initiatives under the RISE ABOVE banner

Learning Objectives:

1. Cause aviation museums to consider the potential of outreach programs. Rather than expecting them to visit you… what if you visited them?
2. Learn practical applications of the program.

**Subject Area** please pick ONE:

- Museum Administration
- Collections Management
- Restoration/Conservation
- Exhibition Design
- Education and Programming
- Development & Marketing
- Media & Technology
- Other topic area

**Audience:**

For skills-based session, please check:

- Beginner
- Intermediate
- Advanced

**SESSION COORDINATOR:**

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**PRESENTER 2 (OPTIONAL):**

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Submission deadline is May 18, 2015
Please email completed form to nasmmutualconcerns@si.edu