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**Gary/Chicago International Airport's B. Coleman general manager featured on WGN-TV**

*Ben Toles highlighted as feature story celebrating Black History Month*

GARY, Ind (February 9, 2015)- Ben Toles, the General Manager of B. Coleman Aviation at the Gary/Chicago International Airport was recently featured by WGN-TV as "One of Chicago's Very Own." Toles was acknowledged because of his trailblazing spirit in a special segment honoring Black History Month and Bessie Coleman, the first African-American woman to hold an international pilot's license.

Even when Toles was a young boy in Liberia he knew that flying was what he wanted to do. When he was 21, he joined the Liberian Army and soon after found himself with a pilot's license and a Lieutenant rank. Political uncertainty forced Toles to move to the United States where he got a job at the Gary Jet Center. Over the course of seven years, Toles worked his way up from line serviceman to operations manager to general manager –a position he has since held at B. Coleman Aviation.

His work at B. Coleman can be seen as continuing the legacy of one of America's greatest pioneers. "To carry on her courage, and carry on her dreams, she'd be proud," Toles said.

B. Coleman Aviation is one a recent addition to the Gary/Chicago International Airport and is one of two fixed-based operators (FBO) located at the Airport. The Airport is currently working on a \$174 million runway expansion project to access new markets and accommodate a more diverse range of aircraft. The runway expansion project is estimated to be completed during the summer of 2015.

The segment aired on WGN-TV on February 6 and is available online here:

<http://wgntv.com/2015/02/06/chicagos-very-own-benjamin-toles/>