



Annie J. Easley

Annie Easley began her career in 1955 as a "human computer," doing computations for researchers at what is known today as the NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio. This involved analyzing problems and doing calculations by hand. Her earliest work involved running simulations for the newly planned Plum Brook Reactor Facility. When hired, she was one of only four African-American employees at the Lab.

When human computers were replaced by machines, Easley evolved along with the technology. She became an adept computer programmer, using programming languages to support a number of NASA's missions and projects. She developed and implemented code used in researching energy-conversion systems, analyzing alternative power technology—including the battery technology that was used for early hybrid vehicles, as well as for the Centaur upper-stage rocket.

In the 1970s, Easley returned to school to earn her degree in mathematics from Cleveland State, doing much of her coursework while also working full time.

Later in her career, she took on the additional role of equal employment opportunity (EEO) counselor. In this role she helped supervisors address issues of gender, race, and age in discrimination complaints at the lowest level and in the most cooperative way possible.

Easley retired in 1989, but she remained an active participant in the Speaker's Bureau and the Business & Professional Women's association. Annie Easley passed away on June 25, 2011.

In 2015 she was inducted into the inaugural class of the NASA Glenn Research Center Hall of Fame established to honor and recognize those who have built exemplary careers and contributed to our Center's success. Her sustained and far-reaching influence on the mission of the Center, inspiration to employees through her character, and embodiment of the NASA spirit earned her this honor.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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National Aeronautics and
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NASA Glenn Research Center

FROM HIDDEN TO MODERN FIGURES

*NASA's Past Shows the Way
to the Future*



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January 14, 2017 • 11:30 a.m.



Christine
Darden, Ph.D.



Katherine
Johnson



Mary
Jackson



Dorothy
Vaughan

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Robyn N. Gordon

Robyn N. Gordon serves as Director of the Center Operations Directorate at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration John H. Glenn Research Center at Lewis Field in Cleveland, Ohio. In this capacity, she manages organizational objectives, direction, resource allocation, and institutional functions. Gordon also coordinates and integrates activities of the institution, which cross directorate organizations. Additionally, she determines institutional issues that affect the execution and performance of the Center's commitments. Gordon has an extensive background developing, implementing, and measuring strategic and business planning initiatives and processes for organizations. Before joining Glenn, Gordon served in leadership roles at the Cuyahoga County Public Library and the City of Cleveland.

MODERATOR

Carolyn Williams, Ph.D.

A native of Virginia, Dr. Carolyn Williams was born and raised in Princess Anne County/Virginia Beach, Virginia. Her multiple degrees from Tidewater Community College, Old Dominion University, and Regent University have endorsements that cover diverse areas of Elementary Education, Library Science, Middle School Education, Supervision, and Administration. Dr. Williams worked and retired from the Virginia Beach City Public School (VBCPS) System with over 30 years of experiences within administration, teaching, and as a Library Media Specialist. Currently, she is Board Chair and Director of Education for From One Hand to AnOTHER (FOHTA, Inc.).

Dr. Williams is the loving wife of Pharoah and loving mother of Pharrell, Cato, and Psolomon.

PANELISTS

Marla E. Pérez-Davis, Ph.D.

Dr. Marla E. Pérez-Davis serves as the deputy director of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's John H. Glenn Research Center in Cleveland. In this capacity she shares with the center director responsibility for planning, organizing, and managing the Agency-level programs and projects assigned to the Center. Pérez-Davis, a native of Puerto Rico, earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Puerto Rico; a Master of Science degree from the University of Toledo, and a Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University in Chemical Engineering.

Christine Darden, Ph.D.

Dr. Christine Darden is a mathematician, data analyst, and aeronautical engineer who devoted her 40-year career in aerodynamics to researching sonic booms at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). She is the first African-American woman at NASA Langley to be promoted into the Senior Executive Service. She earned her bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Hampton University; a Master of Science degree from Virginia State College; and a Ph.D. from George Washington University in Mechanical Engineering.

Woodrow Whitlow, Jr., Ph.D.

Dr. Woodrow Whitlow, Jr., served as Director of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration John H. Glenn Research Center at Lewis Field in Cleveland, Ohio, from 2005 to 2010. In this capacity he was responsible for planning, organizing, and directing the activities required to accomplish the missions assigned to the Center. In 2014, he was appointed executive in residence at Cleveland State University's Washkewicz College of Engineering. Dr. Whitlow earned his Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Aeronautics and Astronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

AGENDA

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Robyn N. Gordon

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Video Presentations

Hidden Figures Leadership Panel

MODERATOR

Carolyn Williams, Ph.D.

PANELISTS

Marla E. Pérez-Davis, Ph.D.

Christine Darden, Ph.D.

Woodrow Whitlow, Jr., Ph.D.

Please enjoy the activities in the lobby before and after the program. The activities will run until 1:30 p.m.