I'm Francois Thomas, I work in the tribology and mechanical components at NASA Glenn. I've currently been working in this branch for three years. I started off as a co-op and currently got hired on full-time in 2010. I work in the field of tribology, which is the study of friction, wearing, lubrication. In my labs, I do a lot of testing as far as to failure analysis, the way things or surfaces interact and highly rub okay. So with that, we test for the lifetime of a sample to see how long it will actually last in space or
whatever environment is going to be in
it's exciting definitely being a lifelong dream to work for NASA and it's great it allows me to think outside the box and work with a great team to pursue missions that are going to be going into space I attended Tuskegee University in Alabama I have degrees in physics and electrical engineering my concentration was in semiconductors and that's one way I kind of got started into the materials I use football as a means to an end to pay for my schooling so that's how I was able to pay for school and I played
football for four years at Tuskegee and

I also achieved 33 rings and one national black championship title also

I'm Richard kids throughout the Cleveland area as well as tri-c a tutor

math or physics since I do have a degree in physics also I get a feel or sense of self gratification it actually feels my heart with joy when I teach something new or different technique to somebody and they get it when that light ball comes on their hair it brings a sense of purpose to me that I'm doing what I'm supposed to be doing it's important for
more African American scientists and
engineers come share their stories go
into the classrooms to help educate
these young African-American youth about
their stories and what they've done and
how they have collaborated to get to
where they are today a lot of these kids
think that sports or being an
entertainer singer will take you to that
next level the fact is only what about
one percent actually make it in that
feel and the thing is right now with our
nation we have a lot of openings within
the STEM fields and we have to take
advantage of that so that's why us as
african-americans have to engage our youth as an african-american my lineage means perseverance that's one word that I could use that could sum it all up in one word it means dedication hard work drive the wheel guts that's how I live my life day to day is by persevering whether it's and work with helping friends out mentoring to somebody and just try to persevere with everything I do