in recognition of african-american history month NASA salutes the contributions of african-americans to the cause of space exploration my name is Nate Boclair the third I have been working for now so Marshall Space Flight Center I started in 1977 as a co-op and curling today I am manager of the space systems operations branch within the engineer and director I remember being a very small boy watching on TV the astronauts walk on the moon on a small black and white TV and I remember asking
my father are they really on the moon

and he said yes they are actually on the moon when I enter college I decided that

I want to go into a technical field which was computer science and

happen for me while I was in college

which was the cooperative education initially I was reluctant

because I thought it would delay my education so basically i did in the co-op program and that's how I first entered my foot into NASA biggest

influence in my life will be my parents
both of my parents are educators some of the baggage that they instilled in me would be a strong Christian faith they taught me the importance of education having a strong educational background foundation also they taught me the importance of working well with other people I think it is very important to have a personal strategic plan well basically you set your goals you evaluate yourself on a routine basis and that is your plan for success