I can't think of any personal example that I have - have experienced as far as, you know like an obvious sort of discrimination against me because I was a woman.

It's more subtle than that.

There's no doubt that the Civil Rights Act was a huge turning point in our history and a good one and I think it's one that has enabled women like myself to be able to work at a place like NASA -- to be able to work in technical fields, and there's still a lot of progress that we have to make in order to make sure gender equality is happening in the work place but NASA is making really great strides in that direction.

And I think a lot of that starts with kids, you know -- encouraging girls -- telling them that they can do every bit as good as boys -- that they can do the hard stuff.

Of course NASA is a really great place to work on those big challenging programs and
so a lot of what I do at NASA, in addition to my science is I try to go out and talk to girls and talk to school kids and tell the girls, 'that you can be anything you want to be, you can do anything you want to do.'

I've always been pulled towards NASA.

I think when I was younger I probably didn't really ever dream that I would actually ever work here.

So, it's really is still a thrill to work at an agency that I believe is tackling the hardest technical challenges in the world.

I am NASA.