



**HISPANIC
HERITAGE
MONTH**



Alana Roche'

Public & Digital Engagement Lead

Elena Johnson

Airborne Science Public Affairs Specialist

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,435
[MUSIC PLAYING]

2
00:00:15,590 --> 00:00:16,910
Hi, my name is Laura Peterson.

3
00:00:16,910 --> 00:00:19,310
And I work at the NASA Armstrong
Flight Research Center,

4
00:00:19,310 --> 00:00:21,950
focusing on public and
digital engagement.

5
00:00:21,950 --> 00:00:24,770
Hispanic Heritage Month
first began in 1968

6
00:00:24,770 --> 00:00:26,630
as a week-long celebration.

7
00:00:26,630 --> 00:00:30,050
Over 50 years, later it has
grown to spend an entire month,

8
00:00:30,050 --> 00:00:33,260
running from September
15 to October 15.

9
00:00:33,260 --> 00:00:35,630
The National Heritage
Month pays tribute

10
00:00:35,630 --> 00:00:37,820
to generations of
Hispanic Americans

11
00:00:37,820 --> 00:00:40,130
who have positively

influenced and enriched

12

00:00:40,130 --> 00:00:42,110

our nation's society.

13

00:00:42,110 --> 00:00:45,590

Today I'm happy to be joined by two members of my team, Alana

14

00:00:45,590 --> 00:00:47,390

Roche, public and digital engagement

15

00:00:47,390 --> 00:00:50,570

lead, and Elena Johnson, public affairs specialist.

16

00:00:50,570 --> 00:00:51,660

Thanks for joining me.

17

00:00:51,660 --> 00:00:54,630

How are you both doing?

18

00:00:54,630 --> 00:00:55,150

Hey, Laura.

19

00:00:55,150 --> 00:00:56,025

Thanks for having us.

20

00:00:56,025 --> 00:00:56,770

Happy to be here.

21

00:00:56,770 --> 00:00:58,870

I'm doing great.

22

00:00:58,870 --> 00:01:00,000

I'm doing great too, Laura.

23

00:01:00,000 --> 00:01:02,140
Happy to be here.

24
00:01:02,140 --> 00:01:04,750
So happy to have
you guys on with me.

25
00:01:04,750 --> 00:01:06,400
Well, let's just
get right into it.

26
00:01:06,400 --> 00:01:08,450
Alana, let's start with you.

27
00:01:08,450 --> 00:01:11,050
Tell us briefly about
your work here at NASA

28
00:01:11,050 --> 00:01:15,970
and when you first knew you
wanted to join the agency.

29
00:01:15,970 --> 00:01:19,620
Yeah, so I am also a public
and digital engagement lead.

30
00:01:19,620 --> 00:01:23,310
I've been here for
about three years now.

31
00:01:23,310 --> 00:01:27,790
And some of what I do
is public engagement.

32
00:01:27,790 --> 00:01:29,880
But I also do social
media, so I take

33
00:01:29,880 --> 00:01:33,090
care of all of our social

media here at NASA Armstrong,

34

00:01:33,090 --> 00:01:35,520

also contribute to
the headquarters page.

35

00:01:35,520 --> 00:01:38,070

And then also
beforehand, I would

36

00:01:38,070 --> 00:01:40,500

help with live events
and in-person events,

37

00:01:40,500 --> 00:01:43,600

but now we've moved to
the digital landscape.

38

00:01:43,600 --> 00:01:47,250

One of the things
that I did here was I

39

00:01:47,250 --> 00:01:49,780

was able to start my
career through college.

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00:01:49,780 --> 00:01:53,440

So I went to a local college
at Cal State-San Bernardino.

41

00:01:53,440 --> 00:01:55,710

I know that's also
where Elena went,

42

00:01:55,710 --> 00:01:59,340

and that's really where I got
my start and foot in the door.

43

00:01:59,340 --> 00:02:04,050

It was actually a speaker

that came to my college,

44

00:02:04,050 --> 00:02:06,600

and that's how I
knew about the job.

45

00:02:06,600 --> 00:02:08,729

I never really thought
that I would end up

46

00:02:08,729 --> 00:02:11,490

at NASA being a
communications major

47

00:02:11,490 --> 00:02:16,170

but nonetheless was able to
apply and get a position here.

48

00:02:19,647 --> 00:02:21,730

So Alana, I know that you
went to the same school.

49

00:02:21,730 --> 00:02:24,590

Do you want to tell me
about your experience?

50

00:02:24,590 --> 00:02:25,140

Yes.

51

00:02:25,140 --> 00:02:27,320

So me and Alana did
go to the same school.

52

00:02:27,320 --> 00:02:29,780

We were both Cal State-San
Bernardino alumni.

53

00:02:29,780 --> 00:02:31,610

And just like her,
I never thought

54

00:02:31,610 --> 00:02:34,002

I could join the organization.

55

00:02:34,002 --> 00:02:35,960

It wasn't until I received
a job recommendation

56

00:02:35,960 --> 00:02:38,540

from one of my professors
who was a mentor of mine

57

00:02:38,540 --> 00:02:40,640

while getting my
communications degree.

58

00:02:40,640 --> 00:02:42,680

And she let me know
about the job opening,

59

00:02:42,680 --> 00:02:44,870

and I decided to apply.

60

00:02:44,870 --> 00:02:47,810

And I ended up interviewing
for a different position

61

00:02:47,810 --> 00:02:48,890

that I'm in now.

62

00:02:48,890 --> 00:02:50,780

And that first position,
I didn't end up

63

00:02:50,780 --> 00:02:52,670

getting the job, but
the second time around,

64

00:02:52,670 --> 00:02:54,000

I did end up getting the job.

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00:02:54,000 --> 00:02:58,520

And now I work as a public affairs specialist, and I am--

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00:02:58,520 --> 00:03:01,790

the areas that I cover are airborne science and SOFIA.

67

00:03:01,790 --> 00:03:06,500

And another big responsibility that Alana and I share

68

00:03:06,500 --> 00:03:09,860

are doing Spanish translations.

69

00:03:09,860 --> 00:03:13,280

We translate for our Spanish speaking audience.

70

00:03:13,280 --> 00:03:18,568

And that's something that we do, and it's been really great.

71

00:03:18,568 --> 00:03:20,610

Alana, do you want to tell me more about the work

72

00:03:20,610 --> 00:03:22,690

that you do with the diverse team?

73

00:03:22,690 --> 00:03:25,920

I know you work with headquarters on that as well.

74

00:03:25,920 --> 00:03:26,430

Yeah.

75

00:03:26,430 --> 00:03:31,020

So I'm honored to be able to
be a part of the DEIA team.

76

00:03:31,020 --> 00:03:35,050

So that's our diversity and
inclusion team here at NASA.

77

00:03:35,050 --> 00:03:37,980

So I am on the board
with headquarters.

78

00:03:37,980 --> 00:03:40,780

I'm one of the five
members that's on there.

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00:03:40,780 --> 00:03:43,500

And basically it's a new
thing that we're working on.

80

00:03:43,500 --> 00:03:45,600

We just worked on
our plan so that we

81

00:03:45,600 --> 00:03:49,110

can help be more diverse
internally, externally,

82

00:03:49,110 --> 00:03:52,260

and just making sure that
we're reaching people

83

00:03:52,260 --> 00:03:56,280

at all levels, all
races, all genders,

84

00:03:56,280 --> 00:03:59,490

making sure that we're
hitting those notes

85

00:03:59,490 --> 00:04:01,200

and applying to all.

86

00:04:01,200 --> 00:04:02,790

It's such fun.

87

00:04:02,790 --> 00:04:05,880

I'm also part of the
Hispanic team here at NASA,

88

00:04:05,880 --> 00:04:08,340

where, like Alana said,
we translate a lot

89

00:04:08,340 --> 00:04:11,760

of our messaging to the public.

90

00:04:11,760 --> 00:04:14,040

And it is something
to make sure that I'm

91

00:04:14,040 --> 00:04:16,470

reaching a bigger audience.

92

00:04:16,470 --> 00:04:21,200

And I'm really happy to be
able to help with that team.

93

00:04:21,200 --> 00:04:22,580

That's awesome.

94

00:04:22,580 --> 00:04:25,010

Elena, other than what
we just talked about,

95

00:04:25,010 --> 00:04:28,760

is there something
specifically that you just

96

00:04:28,760 --> 00:04:32,880

find to be your favorite
part of your job?

97

00:04:32,880 --> 00:04:33,430

Yeah.

98

00:04:33,430 --> 00:04:35,680

So I would say my
favorite part of the job

99

00:04:35,680 --> 00:04:37,900

is just the
consistent challenge.

100

00:04:37,900 --> 00:04:41,200

I'm constantly
learning more and just

101

00:04:41,200 --> 00:04:43,300

working with all the
people in our office

102

00:04:43,300 --> 00:04:46,090

and the center and just
the agency overall.

103

00:04:46,090 --> 00:04:49,250

It's just a constant challenge
and I'm always learning more.

104

00:04:49,250 --> 00:04:54,052

So it keeps me on my toes and
it's never really a boring day.

105

00:04:54,052 --> 00:04:55,510

Yeah, I definitely
understand where

106

00:04:55,510 --> 00:04:57,220
you're coming from-- me too.

107
00:04:57,220 --> 00:04:59,410
Alana, what about you?

108
00:04:59,410 --> 00:05:01,990
For me, it's going to be
interacting with people.

109
00:05:01,990 --> 00:05:04,940
Now it's more on
Teams, of course.

110
00:05:04,940 --> 00:05:08,440
But before that it was in
person, walking the halls,

111
00:05:08,440 --> 00:05:10,960
meeting different people
that I really never thought I

112
00:05:10,960 --> 00:05:12,010
would get to meet.

113
00:05:12,010 --> 00:05:13,420
I've met astronauts.

114
00:05:13,420 --> 00:05:15,940
I've met a couple
administrators.

115
00:05:15,940 --> 00:05:18,405
I've met different
people that I never

116
00:05:18,405 --> 00:05:19,780
thought I would
get to meet and I

117

00:05:19,780 --> 00:05:22,480

know I wouldn't have if it
wasn't for working here.

118

00:05:22,480 --> 00:05:24,370

And also, my favorite
part of my job

119

00:05:24,370 --> 00:05:26,530

is the team that I work with.

120

00:05:26,530 --> 00:05:31,630

We are a small center,
but we get a lot done.

121

00:05:31,630 --> 00:05:34,030

And it's really an
amazing thing to be

122

00:05:34,030 --> 00:05:36,070

able to be a flight
research center

123

00:05:36,070 --> 00:05:39,390

and get a lot of
information out there.

124

00:05:39,390 --> 00:05:42,310

Yes, there's definitely a
strong sense of community,

125

00:05:42,310 --> 00:05:45,460

especially at our center, since
we are one of the smaller ones.

126

00:05:45,460 --> 00:05:49,140

We get to work a lot
more with everyone.

127

00:05:49,140 --> 00:05:51,510

Alana, is there any
role models that

128

00:05:51,510 --> 00:05:55,210

have inspired you to get
to where you are today?

129

00:05:55,210 --> 00:05:57,600

Yeah, my family.

130

00:05:57,600 --> 00:05:59,400

My family is such
a big inspiration

131

00:05:59,400 --> 00:06:01,620

for me, especially my mom.

132

00:06:01,620 --> 00:06:05,010

My mom is somebody
who came from Mexico

133

00:06:05,010 --> 00:06:08,190

and she worked her way
up to become successful.

134

00:06:08,190 --> 00:06:10,680

Because of her
financial situation,

135

00:06:10,680 --> 00:06:12,750

she wasn't able to
complete college.

136

00:06:12,750 --> 00:06:14,490

But that didn't really stop her.

137

00:06:14,490 --> 00:06:17,190

She was able to
accomplish so much.

138

00:06:17,190 --> 00:06:19,110

She is successful today.

139

00:06:19,110 --> 00:06:20,220

She keeps going.

140

00:06:20,220 --> 00:06:22,690

She's very hardworking.

141

00:06:22,690 --> 00:06:25,650

I think that I'm proud to
say I was able to get my work

142

00:06:25,650 --> 00:06:27,630

ethic from her.

143

00:06:27,630 --> 00:06:29,820

We have that can-do attitude.

144

00:06:29,820 --> 00:06:34,590

And I think I just learned
a lot from her overall.

145

00:06:34,590 --> 00:06:36,450

And there's other
people in my family.

146

00:06:36,450 --> 00:06:41,970

I have an uncle, my uncle
Carlos, my aunt Maria, my dad,

147

00:06:41,970 --> 00:06:44,160

I just have so many
people around me.

148

00:06:44,160 --> 00:06:47,640

Even my cousins that are in
this similar age group as me--

149

00:06:47,640 --> 00:06:52,440

we're all really proving
ourselves and working hard

150

00:06:52,440 --> 00:06:54,210

and keep getting promotions.

151

00:06:54,210 --> 00:06:56,970

And I'm just really,
really proud and inspired

152

00:06:56,970 --> 00:07:00,590

by everyone in my family.

153

00:07:00,590 --> 00:07:01,550

That's awesome.

154

00:07:01,550 --> 00:07:04,790

I think it's so important
to be surrounded by people

155

00:07:04,790 --> 00:07:08,280

who keep you going for more.

156

00:07:08,280 --> 00:07:10,990

Elena, what about you?

157

00:07:10,990 --> 00:07:13,000

For me, I would say
I'm the same way.

158

00:07:13,000 --> 00:07:16,210

I took so much
inspiration from my mom.

159

00:07:16,210 --> 00:07:18,280

She was such a hard worker.

160

00:07:18,280 --> 00:07:21,820

Unfortunately, she did pass away recently in December of 2020.

161

00:07:21,820 --> 00:07:25,450

So she's no longer with us, but she was such a great worker

162

00:07:25,450 --> 00:07:28,660

and she was constantly going above and beyond.

163

00:07:28,660 --> 00:07:31,750

And her work ethic really inspired my work ethic.

164

00:07:31,750 --> 00:07:34,780

And I also took really great inspiration

165

00:07:34,780 --> 00:07:38,585

from Mexican-American singer Selena Quintanilla.

166

00:07:38,585 --> 00:07:40,210

I feel like I really resonated with her

167

00:07:40,210 --> 00:07:42,790

when I was younger watching her movie

168

00:07:42,790 --> 00:07:44,930

and hearing about her story.

169

00:07:44,930 --> 00:07:46,600

So that's really shaped kind of who

170

00:07:46,600 --> 00:07:49,480

I am and made me
feel kind of welcomed

171

00:07:49,480 --> 00:07:51,890

and I guess I'm
supposed to be here

172

00:07:51,890 --> 00:07:55,755

and that there are other people
who are like me out there.

173

00:07:55,755 --> 00:07:56,380

That's awesome.

174

00:07:56,380 --> 00:07:58,660

So where, Elena, are
you specifically-- where

175

00:07:58,660 --> 00:08:00,850

does your family originate from?

176

00:08:00,850 --> 00:08:05,320

Yeah, so I'm half
Mexican on my mom's side.

177

00:08:05,320 --> 00:08:08,920

My grandparents are
from Zacatecas, Mexico.

178

00:08:08,920 --> 00:08:11,440

They decided to
immigrate to California

179

00:08:11,440 --> 00:08:13,840

and they ended up in
La Puente, California.

180

00:08:13,840 --> 00:08:18,010

And they ended up raising

six kids, including my mom.

181

00:08:18,010 --> 00:08:23,350

And yeah, they really
wanted to be here

182

00:08:23,350 --> 00:08:27,160

for a better opportunity to give
their kids a better opportunity

183

00:08:27,160 --> 00:08:30,490

and also give their
kids' kids, which is me,

184

00:08:30,490 --> 00:08:31,600

a better opportunity.

185

00:08:31,600 --> 00:08:35,980

And I feel like that has really
shown where we're at right now.

186

00:08:35,980 --> 00:08:40,940

And yeah, it's really great.

187

00:08:40,940 --> 00:08:43,039

Alana, what about you?

188

00:08:43,039 --> 00:08:45,860

Yeah, so my dad's
actually from New Orleans.

189

00:08:45,860 --> 00:08:47,570

So he was born and raised there.

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00:08:47,570 --> 00:08:50,300

I have a big family and
big sense of community

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00:08:50,300 --> 00:08:53,390

from New Orleans, but
my mom is from Mexico.

192
00:08:53,390 --> 00:08:57,410
Her mother is from a small
town called Apatzingan,

193
00:08:57,410 --> 00:09:01,070
and my grandpa is from a
small town called Chihuahua.

194
00:09:01,070 --> 00:09:04,220
And those are both
in Michoacan, Mexico.

195
00:09:04,220 --> 00:09:07,550
And funny, like
Elena, my family,

196
00:09:07,550 --> 00:09:10,100
when they first came to the
country, they went to East LA,

197
00:09:10,100 --> 00:09:12,230
but they did end
up in La Puente.

198
00:09:12,230 --> 00:09:15,620
So I'm starting to see that
we have a lot of similarities

199
00:09:15,620 --> 00:09:16,280
here.

200
00:09:16,280 --> 00:09:20,660
But yeah, they came to
this country with the same

201
00:09:20,660 --> 00:09:22,100
as Elena, with big dreams.

202

00:09:22,100 --> 00:09:24,140

And luckily, a lot
of my mom's siblings

203

00:09:24,140 --> 00:09:26,810

have also been very successful.

204

00:09:26,810 --> 00:09:28,730

And I have a huge family.

205

00:09:28,730 --> 00:09:31,160

I think my grandparents
have something

206

00:09:31,160 --> 00:09:34,220

like 12 grandchildren.

207

00:09:34,220 --> 00:09:36,590

So we have a huge
sense of family

208

00:09:36,590 --> 00:09:41,510

and definitely have our roots
here in the United States.

209

00:09:41,510 --> 00:09:43,970

Wow, that's a lot of grandkids.

210

00:09:43,970 --> 00:09:48,500

But a small world that you guys
both have roots in La Puente.

211

00:09:48,500 --> 00:09:51,140

So Alana, are there
any traditions

212

00:09:51,140 --> 00:09:54,280

that resonate with you?

213

00:09:54,280 --> 00:09:57,790

Yeah, when I think of traditions, I think of food.

214

00:09:57,790 --> 00:10:00,370

Because it seems to me like everything

215

00:10:00,370 --> 00:10:04,480

that I have in my family or every gathering that we have,

216

00:10:04,480 --> 00:10:06,070

it's like, what are we eating?

217

00:10:06,070 --> 00:10:08,420

What's going on?

218

00:10:08,420 --> 00:10:09,250

What are we making?

219

00:10:09,250 --> 00:10:10,930

What's happening?

220

00:10:10,930 --> 00:10:15,970

Tamales during Christmas time, pozole when it's cold.

221

00:10:15,970 --> 00:10:19,240

We always have some kind of family tradition

222

00:10:19,240 --> 00:10:20,860

during different times.

223

00:10:20,860 --> 00:10:23,350

And I know that at every family gathering,

224

00:10:23,350 --> 00:10:24,850

we're going to have
really good food

225

00:10:24,850 --> 00:10:26,530

and we're going to
have a lot of it.

226

00:10:26,530 --> 00:10:29,110

And that's just something
that my family has always

227

00:10:29,110 --> 00:10:31,610

brought me up in.

228

00:10:31,610 --> 00:10:33,230

Yeah, that's actually
very similar.

229

00:10:33,230 --> 00:10:37,310

I'm Italian and grew up in
a very similar household

230

00:10:37,310 --> 00:10:39,200

with the respect that
holidays are always

231

00:10:39,200 --> 00:10:42,410

associated with food and
traditional food as well.

232

00:10:42,410 --> 00:10:45,110

Like Christmas Eve,
it's always the fish.

233

00:10:45,110 --> 00:10:48,170

Elena, what about you?

234

00:10:48,170 --> 00:10:50,720
Yes, I have to say the same.

235
00:10:50,720 --> 00:10:56,360
For my family too, we really
do celebrate our traditions

236
00:10:56,360 --> 00:10:57,080
in food.

237
00:10:57,080 --> 00:11:00,350
And just like Alana
said, we're very similar.

238
00:11:00,350 --> 00:11:01,340
And we are the same.

239
00:11:01,340 --> 00:11:04,130
We do tamales for Christmas,
pozole for Thanksgiving

240
00:11:04,130 --> 00:11:05,540
or for whatever it's cold.

241
00:11:05,540 --> 00:11:08,960
And yeah, that's a
great way for all

242
00:11:08,960 --> 00:11:10,610
of our family to come together.

243
00:11:10,610 --> 00:11:13,760
And it's a great way for me
to learn from my grandparents

244
00:11:13,760 --> 00:11:16,700
how they cook and just the
traditions that they brought

245

00:11:16,700 --> 00:11:19,910
over from Mexico and just
learning more from them

246
00:11:19,910 --> 00:11:22,430
and being surrounded
by so much food

247
00:11:22,430 --> 00:11:26,180
because it's great
eating and indulging

248
00:11:26,180 --> 00:11:27,920
into so many different foods.

249
00:11:27,920 --> 00:11:31,460
And I feel like a lot
of people can really

250
00:11:31,460 --> 00:11:33,950
connect together with food.

251
00:11:33,950 --> 00:11:35,930
Yes, definitely.

252
00:11:35,930 --> 00:11:40,340
I know that food is something
that people can always relate

253
00:11:40,340 --> 00:11:42,305
to and come together for.

254
00:11:45,570 --> 00:11:49,250
Alana, what does Hispanic
Heritage Month really

255
00:11:49,250 --> 00:11:51,200
mean to you?

256

00:11:51,200 --> 00:11:55,490
So Hispanic Heritage Month means
to me just a time for all of us

257
00:11:55,490 --> 00:11:59,810
to kind of reflect and think
back on where our families are

258
00:11:59,810 --> 00:12:03,980
from, where we've come from
and how far we've come along,

259
00:12:03,980 --> 00:12:05,845
and just really reflecting
on those things.

260
00:12:05,845 --> 00:12:07,220
I feel like this
is a time for me

261
00:12:07,220 --> 00:12:10,353
to really think about that and
to kind of share my experience.

262
00:12:10,353 --> 00:12:12,020
I feel like most of
the time, I wouldn't

263
00:12:12,020 --> 00:12:14,030
be able to share an
experience like this.

264
00:12:14,030 --> 00:12:18,200
And it's really great to connect
with my coworker Elena on this,

265
00:12:18,200 --> 00:12:20,310
and it's just really awesome.

266
00:12:20,310 --> 00:12:23,540

And so yeah, I think
that's just a great way

267

00:12:23,540 --> 00:12:25,310
to celebrate Hispanic
Heritage Month.

268

00:12:25,310 --> 00:12:27,530
And for other people, I
think it's a great time

269

00:12:27,530 --> 00:12:31,280
to learn about other
cultures and other races

270

00:12:31,280 --> 00:12:34,333
and just a time for us to learn
about all the different people

271

00:12:34,333 --> 00:12:36,500
that make up Hispanic
Heritage Month because there's

272

00:12:36,500 --> 00:12:39,350
just so many groups, so
many different people.

273

00:12:39,350 --> 00:12:43,430
And it's a really big room.

274

00:12:43,430 --> 00:12:45,650
Yeah, I can completely
agree with you on that one.

275

00:12:45,650 --> 00:12:50,060
Elena, what does Hispanic
Heritage Month mean to you?

276

00:12:50,060 --> 00:12:52,850
To me, it just really

means learning.

277

00:12:52,850 --> 00:12:55,550

So I'm, like Alana
said, learning

278

00:12:55,550 --> 00:12:57,260

about different cultures.

279

00:12:57,260 --> 00:13:00,410

Hispanic Heritage has
such a huge community.

280

00:13:00,410 --> 00:13:05,450

There's so many different
Latino and Hispanic cultures.

281

00:13:05,450 --> 00:13:08,930

And I'm Mexican, but I'm
also learning about so

282

00:13:08,930 --> 00:13:10,820

many different
kinds and learning

283

00:13:10,820 --> 00:13:13,610

how we have similarities and
how some of our traditions

284

00:13:13,610 --> 00:13:14,580

are very similar.

285

00:13:14,580 --> 00:13:16,070

But then some of them aren't.

286

00:13:16,070 --> 00:13:17,960

And I think for
others, it's the same.

287

00:13:17,960 --> 00:13:19,130
It's about learning.

288
00:13:19,130 --> 00:13:22,377
I take these months as
learning about other cultures

289
00:13:22,377 --> 00:13:23,960
and then also learning
more about mine

290
00:13:23,960 --> 00:13:27,200
that I maybe didn't know about.

291
00:13:27,200 --> 00:13:28,070
Yes, definitely.

292
00:13:28,070 --> 00:13:29,540
Now one last question.

293
00:13:29,540 --> 00:13:32,630
Elena, do you have
any advice that you'd

294
00:13:32,630 --> 00:13:38,170
give to young individuals
interested in a career in NASA?

295
00:13:38,170 --> 00:13:43,460
I'm just going to go
ahead and say, go for it.

296
00:13:43,460 --> 00:13:46,420
One of my favorite
things to live by

297
00:13:46,420 --> 00:13:49,570
is kind of fake it
till you make it.

298

00:13:49,570 --> 00:13:52,600

And when I say that, I
don't mean lie your way.

299

00:13:52,600 --> 00:13:57,040

I don't mean lie on your resume
or lie to get to where you are.

300

00:13:57,040 --> 00:13:59,690

I mean you're here for a reason.

301

00:13:59,690 --> 00:14:01,480

You got to where you are.

302

00:14:01,480 --> 00:14:03,640

And just go for it.

303

00:14:03,640 --> 00:14:07,510

Don't let anything stop you.

304

00:14:07,510 --> 00:14:10,240

Don't let the feeling
of maybe you're

305

00:14:10,240 --> 00:14:13,240

not where you're supposed
to be or you aren't sure

306

00:14:13,240 --> 00:14:15,790

if you should go for
it and just go for it.

307

00:14:15,790 --> 00:14:17,920

Keep pushing, keep going.

308

00:14:17,920 --> 00:14:20,050

You'll get to where
you need to be.

309

00:14:20,050 --> 00:14:21,340

Set yourself up.

310

00:14:21,340 --> 00:14:24,160

Ask other people that are in the field that you want to be in.

311

00:14:24,160 --> 00:14:26,620

Or ask for mentors.

312

00:14:26,620 --> 00:14:29,020

Ask questions.

313

00:14:29,020 --> 00:14:31,510

One of my biggest thing is I'm always learning,

314

00:14:31,510 --> 00:14:34,600

I don't allow other people to make

315

00:14:34,600 --> 00:14:38,260

me feel like I'm less than.

316

00:14:38,260 --> 00:14:40,120

Learn from those people.

317

00:14:40,120 --> 00:14:44,590

Ask questions and continue to learn.

318

00:14:44,590 --> 00:14:50,160

And you'll always have a space where you need to be.

319

00:14:50,160 --> 00:14:53,100

Yes, I think it's so important for young individuals

320

00:14:53,100 --> 00:14:53,730
to know that.

321

00:14:53,730 --> 00:14:56,250
It's so important to
have the confidence

322

00:14:56,250 --> 00:15:02,340
to progress and to have the
confidence to continue to grow.

323

00:15:02,340 --> 00:15:04,890
Alana, what about you?

324

00:15:04,890 --> 00:15:07,910
So my advice would be
to just never give up

325

00:15:07,910 --> 00:15:13,260
and to not take
failure as an option.

326

00:15:13,260 --> 00:15:14,640
Failure is OK.

327

00:15:14,640 --> 00:15:17,780
And it's OK to fail sometimes.

328

00:15:17,780 --> 00:15:21,740
Just like for me in college,
I failed a quarter one time.

329

00:15:21,740 --> 00:15:24,770
And I never thought I could be
here at NASA, but here I am.

330

00:15:24,770 --> 00:15:27,950
I graduated as a first
generation grad student

331

00:15:27,950 --> 00:15:31,670
or alumni, I guess you can
say first generation college

332

00:15:31,670 --> 00:15:32,270
student.

333

00:15:32,270 --> 00:15:36,320
And yeah, I just never
thought I could be here.

334

00:15:36,320 --> 00:15:39,260
And I think that's
advice that anybody

335

00:15:39,260 --> 00:15:42,470
could take to just
be OK with failure

336

00:15:42,470 --> 00:15:46,160
and be fine with making mistakes
and embracing those mistakes

337

00:15:46,160 --> 00:15:48,020
and using those
to your advantage

338

00:15:48,020 --> 00:15:49,730
and getting to where
you want to be,

339

00:15:49,730 --> 00:15:52,500
because you are meant
to be where you are,

340

00:15:52,500 --> 00:15:53,450
where you want to be.

341

00:15:53,450 --> 00:15:56,352

And don't let the imposter
syndrome, the feeling

342

00:15:56,352 --> 00:15:58,310

of not feeling like you're
supposed to be here,

343

00:15:58,310 --> 00:15:59,600

don't let that get to you.

344

00:15:59,600 --> 00:16:01,993

And yeah, I think
that's just my best

345

00:16:01,993 --> 00:16:04,160

advice to give because it's
something that I'm still

346

00:16:04,160 --> 00:16:06,320

working through but
something that I

347

00:16:06,320 --> 00:16:09,110

feel everybody needs to hear.

348

00:16:09,110 --> 00:16:10,100

Yes, definitely.

349

00:16:10,100 --> 00:16:13,550

And I think it's an important
reminder for young adults

350

00:16:13,550 --> 00:16:16,310

that no one is expecting
you to have it all together

351

00:16:16,310 --> 00:16:16,940

immediately.

352

00:16:16,940 --> 00:16:20,220

So take the time to learn.

353

00:16:20,220 --> 00:16:22,040

I do want to thank
you both very much

354

00:16:22,040 --> 00:16:24,680

for virtually being
with me here today.

355

00:16:24,680 --> 00:16:27,680

As someone who's not a part
of the Hispanic community,

356

00:16:27,680 --> 00:16:30,080

this has personally
given me the opportunity

357

00:16:30,080 --> 00:16:32,330

to learn more about the culture.

358

00:16:32,330 --> 00:16:34,730

Do either of you have
any closing remarks

359

00:16:34,730 --> 00:16:35,630

you'd like to make?

360

00:16:35,630 --> 00:16:37,730

Elena?

361

00:16:37,730 --> 00:16:40,280

I just want to thank you for
the opportunity to be here,

362

00:16:40,280 --> 00:16:42,230

and I'm really proud to
be able to share more

363

00:16:42,230 --> 00:16:46,910
about my Latino heritage.

364

00:16:46,910 --> 00:16:48,920
Yeah and I'm really proud too.

365

00:16:48,920 --> 00:16:50,510
I'm so thankful to be here.

366

00:16:50,510 --> 00:16:53,720
And thank you, Laura, for taking
the time to hear our stories.

367

00:16:53,720 --> 00:16:56,720
And thank you for giving us
a space to share our time.

368

00:16:56,720 --> 00:16:59,370
I'm really thankful
and appreciate it.