



1
00:00:00,506 --> 00:00:08,056
[Music]

2
00:00:08,556 --> 00:00:10,406
My name is Abigail Rodriguez,

3
00:00:10,456 --> 00:00:12,996
and I am an aerospace
technologist

4
00:00:13,256 --> 00:00:16,896
in structural materials at
NASA Glenn Research Center

5
00:00:16,896 --> 00:00:18,416
in Cleveland Ohio.

6
00:00:18,876 --> 00:00:21,076
As an employee of the
Quality Engineering

7
00:00:21,076 --> 00:00:25,266
and Assurance Branch, I support
several projects in making sure

8
00:00:25,266 --> 00:00:28,586
that they comply with
NASA's safety standards,

9
00:00:28,996 --> 00:00:31,756
that their materials are
compatible with each other,

10
00:00:32,076 --> 00:00:35,876
I also help them in minimizing
risks and reducing defects

11
00:00:35,876 --> 00:00:38,966
in order to achieve

mission success.

12

00:00:39,046 --> 00:00:42,336

Working in a research environment is both challenging

13

00:00:42,336 --> 00:00:45,986

and rewarding just because you have to have meetings

14

00:00:45,986 --> 00:00:48,446

and interact with people with different backgrounds.

15

00:00:48,976 --> 00:00:52,896

So you're constantly working with both engineers

16

00:00:52,966 --> 00:00:55,856

and scientists, and it's important

17

00:00:55,856 --> 00:00:59,286

to understand everyone-to come together-in order

18

00:00:59,286 --> 00:01:00,806

to achieve project success.

19

00:01:01,766 --> 00:01:04,046

We live and work in a melting pot.

20

00:01:04,516 --> 00:01:07,436

Everywhere we go we see people with different backgrounds.

21

00:01:08,126 --> 00:01:10,166

Diversity is part of our daily lives.

22

00:01:10,166 --> 00:01:13,796

I am really grateful to
be working in a place

23

00:01:13,836 --> 00:01:16,196

that everybody's
accepted as they are.

24

00:01:17,406 --> 00:01:20,086

I am an individual with
three different cultures.

25

00:01:20,886 --> 00:01:25,266

I celebrate it by sharing it
with my co-workers: my culture,

26

00:01:25,356 --> 00:01:29,546

my traditions, and also baking
and cooking for them recipes

27

00:01:29,546 --> 00:01:32,396

that have been passed
on for generations.

28

00:01:33,046 --> 00:01:35,636

I was born in Queens, New
York, and my mother moved

29

00:01:35,636 --> 00:01:38,206

to Puerto Rico when I was
a year and a half old.

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00:01:38,446 --> 00:01:40,736

She was a woman that
led by example.

31

00:01:41,356 --> 00:01:45,596

Thanks to her, I learned the
importance of love, care,

32

00:01:45,756 --> 00:01:47,356
and respect for one another.

33

00:01:47,636 --> 00:01:51,016
And thanks to her, I also
achieved my greatest dream,

34

00:01:51,346 --> 00:01:52,906
which was to become an engineer.

35

00:01:53,346 --> 00:01:57,546
The Hispanic heritage month is
a reminder that I am bilingual

36

00:01:57,546 --> 00:02:00,086
and that I can roll my "Rs."

37

00:02:00,086 --> 00:02:04,186
As a Puerto-Rican, it's a
reminder that the brave spirit

38

00:02:04,186 --> 00:02:07,706
of the Spaniards, the courage
of the Tejanos, and the strength

39

00:02:07,706 --> 00:02:10,006
of the Africans run
through my veins.

40

00:02:10,306 --> 00:02:13,396
If I had to give advice to
a future NASA candidate,

41

00:02:13,396 --> 00:02:16,306
I would say never
take no for an answer.