



1

00:00:04,040 --> 00:00:08,050

<click> My name is Cynthia Simmons and I am Instrument Project Manager in the Flight

2

00:00:08,050 --> 00:00:12,080

Projects Directorate here at Goddard Space Flight Center and specific work

3

00:00:12,080 --> 00:00:16,160

Project Management over in house instruments and the mission I am working is ICESat,

4

00:00:16,160 --> 00:00:20,190

Atlas.

5

00:00:20,190 --> 00:00:24,210

(Music)

6

00:00:24,210 --> 00:00:28,260

When I was a young girl, I thought I would be a write. Then I thought I was going to be

7

00:00:28,260 --> 00:00:32,270

a Phycian a Neuro surgern, when I became an engineer

8

00:00:32,270 --> 00:00:36,300

I thought I wanted to be an astronaut and I was actually on that path

9

00:00:36,300 --> 00:00:40,400

when I was in the military. I never imagine, in my time

10

00:00:40,400 --> 00:00:44,420

or my experiences

11

00:00:44,420 --> 00:00:48,460

that I would be given the opportunities that I've been given to work

12

00:00:48,460 --> 00:00:52,480

all these incredible missions, I never dream that

13

00:00:52,480 --> 00:00:56,510

The first day when I was

14

00:00:56,510 --> 00:01:00,550

actually a civil servant, it was like walking on cloud nine

15

00:01:00,550 --> 00:01:04,610

those all the words that are used a lot, but

16

00:01:04,610 --> 00:01:08,630

I was in a dream world for a long time.

17

00:01:08,630 --> 00:01:12,670

Originally I am from St. Louis Missouri, that's where I was

18

00:01:12,670 --> 00:01:16,700

born and raised. My mother

19

00:01:16,700 --> 00:01:20,730

moved us from the city, because she wanted education opportunities.

20

00:01:20,730 --> 00:01:24,740

We're extremely poor, I remember

21

00:01:24,740 --> 00:01:28,760

many times, but we didn't know it at the time because it looked like this was

22

00:01:28,760 --> 00:01:32,790

the thing you should do. We would be eating hot dogs, that ever kid loves to do,

23

00:01:32,790 --> 00:01:36,830

and my mom had a hot cup of Lipton tea and a slice

24

00:01:36,830 --> 00:01:40,850

of white bread that she toasted and then she was dipping it in

25

00:01:40,850 --> 00:01:44,880

She would sweeten, we thought we want that, but she would say "no, you need to eat

26

00:01:44,880 --> 00:01:48,940

hot dog". What I later learned she didn't have money for

27

00:01:48,940 --> 00:01:52,980

enough food for herself.

28

00:01:52,980 --> 00:01:57,010

What I feel most grateful for and most

29

00:01:57,010 --> 00:02:01,030

excited about what I've done here. I've been able to

30

00:02:01,030 --> 00:02:05,050

participate in a lot of different mission and not only

31

00:02:05,050 --> 00:02:09,070

size, but scope of science and where they are going

32

00:02:09,070 --> 00:02:13,130

into space, what are they doing and I was able to participate in the design

33

00:02:13,130 --> 00:02:17,140

as well as leading teams who are designing.

34

00:02:17,140 --> 00:02:21,170

No matter what your path of life is

35

00:02:21,170 --> 00:02:25,210

no matter the circumstances any time alone the life

36

00:02:25,210 --> 00:02:29,230

don't let that define who you are

37

00:02:29,230 --> 00:02:33,260

and how you react and use that to

38

00:02:33,260 --> 00:02:37,310

enjoy life. I have learned in all these experiences that it's really important

39

00:02:37,310 --> 00:02:41,340

to learn how to love life

40

00:02:41,340 --> 00:02:45,360

appreciate what you have, to learn how to enjoy every moment

41

00:02:45,360 --> 00:02:49,420

appreciate every opportunity

42

00:02:49,420 --> 00:02:53,430

seek the next opportunity, make sure when you, I always say when I open a door, I want to make sure

43

00:02:53,430 --> 00:02:57,480

that there is at least two doors behind there, and if I only find one

44

00:02:57,480 --> 00:03:01,520

because you aren't all knowing, look for window. So you have at least two

45

00:03:01,520 --> 00:03:05,540

paths on to the next thing.

46

00:03:05,540 --> 00:03:09,580

Don't let where you are right now, constrict where your vector

47

00:03:09,580 --> 00:03:13,650

has to go in live.