



WOMEN'S
HISTORY
MONTH

1
00:00:10,380 --> 00:00:16,620

you

2
00:00:21,760 --> 00:00:20,140

hi I'm dr. Renee Horton the SLS lead

3
00:00:23,350 --> 00:00:21,770

metallics and weld engineer at NASA

4
00:00:29,019 --> 00:00:23,360

Michoud assembly facility

5
00:00:30,730 --> 00:00:29,029

I am SLS boots on the ground not all of

6
00:00:32,950 --> 00:00:30,740

us get a chance to do what we love to do

7
00:00:35,260 --> 00:00:32,960

every day so I feel extremely lucky to

8
00:00:37,540 --> 00:00:35,270

work at NASA because it is a dream job I

9
00:00:39,160 --> 00:00:37,550

spent many nights gazing at the Stars

10
00:00:42,009 --> 00:00:39,170

as a child wondering if there was

11
00:00:43,810 --> 00:00:42,019

anything beyond our universe we often

12
00:00:45,700 --> 00:00:43,820

travel to Biloxi to visit my uncle in

13
00:00:47,200 --> 00:00:45,710

the airforce and we would stop at the

14

00:00:49,540 --> 00:00:47,210

rest area outside of Stennis Space

15

00:00:51,880 --> 00:00:49,550

Center and I would get a chance to play

16

00:00:54,250 --> 00:00:51,890

in the NASA area and pretend I was going

17

00:00:56,680 --> 00:00:54,260

into space I decided one day I wanted to

18

00:00:58,959 --> 00:00:56,690

be an astronaut to see the beyond I

19

00:01:00,850 --> 00:00:58,969

joined the Air Force ROTC and during my

20

00:01:02,529 --> 00:01:00,860

physical I learned that I had a hearing

21

00:01:04,779 --> 00:01:02,539

loss and later was diagnosed with a

22

00:01:07,090 --> 00:01:04,789

hearing impairment and I couldn't be an

23

00:01:09,639 --> 00:01:07,100

astronaut but I would still be able to

24

00:01:12,070 --> 00:01:09,649

send astronauts into space I hold an

25

00:01:14,170 --> 00:01:12,080

electrical engineering degree from LSU I

26

00:01:16,240 --> 00:01:14,180

am the first in my family to receive a

27

00:01:18,400 --> 00:01:16,250

PhD and the first african-american to

28

00:01:20,980 --> 00:01:18,410

receive my PhD in material science and

29

00:01:23,740 --> 00:01:20,990

physics from the University of Alabama

30

00:01:26,260 --> 00:01:23,750

go Tigers my degree was funded all on

31

00:01:28,719 --> 00:01:26,270

NASA scholarships I started working for

32

00:01:30,910 --> 00:01:28,729

NASA after I graduated and I've started

33

00:01:33,280 --> 00:01:30,920

in the materials test lab then systems

34

00:01:35,020 --> 00:01:33,290

engineering and now I am the SLS lead

35

00:01:37,390 --> 00:01:35,030

metallic and well specialist at NASA

36

00:01:39,399 --> 00:01:37,400

Michoud assembly facility my current

37

00:01:41,200 --> 00:01:39,409

priority is the vertical assembly center

38

00:01:43,480 --> 00:01:41,210

which is the largest well tool in the

39

00:01:45,399 --> 00:01:43,490

world each day I walk the factory floor

40

00:01:47,260 --> 00:01:45,409

with a lot of pride in working for such

41

00:01:48,490 --> 00:01:47,270

a talented workforce that it's made up

42

00:01:50,620 --> 00:01:48,500

of people from all walks of life

43

00:01:52,030 --> 00:01:50,630

cultures and races we're all

44

00:01:54,039 --> 00:01:52,040

contributing to the next big thing

45

00:02:05,570 --> 00:01:54,049

happening at NASA Michoud we're all a

46

00:02:05,580 --> 00:02:11,640

you

47

00:02:15,839 --> 00:02:14,160

my name is Cynthia sprawl I'm part of a

48

00:02:18,059 --> 00:02:15,849

small team that integrates and operates

49

00:02:19,910 --> 00:02:18,069

two Michoud assembly facility for their

50

00:02:22,530 --> 00:02:19,920

production of the space launch system

51
00:02:24,960 --> 00:02:22,540
daily activities include oversight of

52
00:02:29,630 --> 00:02:24,970
our facilities contractor and management

53
00:02:36,990 --> 00:02:31,589
contribution to the space program is

54
00:02:38,970 --> 00:02:37,000
providing a viable so in addition to

55
00:02:40,559 --> 00:02:38,980
daily activities you will find me

56
00:02:42,210 --> 00:02:40,569
focused on special assignments that have

57
00:02:44,839 --> 00:02:42,220
to do with reducing the cost to operate

58
00:02:47,160 --> 00:02:44,849
the site for the Space Launch System

59
00:02:49,110 --> 00:02:47,170
after exhausting conventional methods

60
00:02:51,089 --> 00:02:49,120
like energy reduction maintenance

61
00:02:53,130 --> 00:02:51,099
planning and scheduling and renting

62
00:02:55,890 --> 00:02:53,140
excess space to commercial tenants we

63
00:02:58,559 --> 00:02:55,900

look for more since we have excess green

64

00:03:00,149 --> 00:02:58,569

space or swampland all around us we're

65

00:03:02,099 --> 00:03:00,159

currently pursuing partnerships with

66

00:03:04,380 --> 00:03:02,109

commercial developers where they would

67

00:03:06,660 --> 00:03:04,390

build their own building on our land and

68

00:03:10,020 --> 00:03:06,670

NASA would realize rental revenue that

69

00:03:12,030 --> 00:03:10,030

offsets the cost to operate for SLS we

70

00:03:14,180 --> 00:03:12,040

have the land they bring the building

71

00:03:16,589 --> 00:03:14,190

everybody wins

72

00:03:18,809 --> 00:03:16,599

we also look for unique contractual

73

00:03:20,849 --> 00:03:18,819

partners currently we're preparing for a

74

00:03:22,949 --> 00:03:20,859

new NASA contract for our operations and

75

00:03:24,720 --> 00:03:22,959

maintenance the new contract will serve

76
00:03:27,509 --> 00:03:24,730
both the Michoud assembly facility and

77
00:03:29,940 --> 00:03:27,519
the Stennis Space Center nearby thereby

78
00:03:31,789 --> 00:03:29,950
realizing synergies and functions of the

79
00:03:33,900 --> 00:03:31,799
contract that are not site-specific

80
00:03:37,580 --> 00:03:33,910
bottom line we believe that this to

81
00:03:39,930 --> 00:03:37,590
reduce the cost to operate for SLS I

82
00:03:42,210 --> 00:03:39,940
believe diversity in the workplace is

83
00:03:44,129 --> 00:03:42,220
key to generating and implementing such

84
00:03:45,539 --> 00:03:44,139
innovations that allow us to achieve

85
00:03:47,909 --> 00:03:45,549
greater results than we could otherwise

86
00:03:49,920 --> 00:03:47,919
I look for opportunities to develop

87
00:03:51,900 --> 00:03:49,930
others and truly enjoy watching them

88
00:03:54,720 --> 00:03:51,910

realize greater goals than they thought

89

00:03:56,849 --> 00:03:54,730

possible my advice to others is look for

90

00:03:58,770 --> 00:03:56,859

opportunities in your organization or

91

00:04:02,550 --> 00:03:58,780

you can solve a problem for management

92

00:04:05,430 --> 00:04:02,560

and ask be persistent in asking for that

93

00:04:08,220 --> 00:04:05,440

assignment diversity in the workplace to

94

00:04:10,949 --> 00:04:08,230

me means listening and being heard it's

95

00:04:12,990 --> 00:04:10,959

so important that people feel heard you

96

00:04:14,909 --> 00:04:13,000

don't have to adopt their idea you only

97

00:04:17,550 --> 00:04:14,919

owe them an explanation and discussion

98

00:04:29,050 --> 00:04:17,560

as to why not because that's where the

99

00:04:29,060 --> 00:04:35,440

you

100

00:04:40,280 --> 00:04:38,600

hi I'm Rhonda Smitherman Hickman chief

101
00:04:43,310 --> 00:04:40,290
information office lead at the Michoud

102
00:04:45,470 --> 00:04:43,320
assembly facility when asked to do this

103
00:04:47,870 --> 00:04:45,480
video for women History Month I was

104
00:04:50,180 --> 00:04:47,880
extremely excited I started working at

105
00:04:51,830 --> 00:04:50,190
math 27 years ago and could not ask for

106
00:04:54,170 --> 00:04:51,840
a better job or a better group of folks

107
00:04:55,430 --> 00:04:54,180
to work with I received a mathematic and

108
00:04:57,590 --> 00:04:55,440
computer science degree from

109
00:05:00,110 --> 00:04:57,600
southeastern Louisiana University back

110
00:05:03,110 --> 00:05:00,120
in the 80s my parents bought me an IBM

111
00:05:05,240 --> 00:05:03,120
PC amber screen with a 300 baud modem I

112
00:05:06,950 --> 00:05:05,250
thought I was big Tom the only one in my

113
00:05:09,680 --> 00:05:06,960

dorm with a computer that could log into

114

00:05:11,420 --> 00:05:09,690

the mainframe after lab hours I can

115

00:05:13,850 --> 00:05:11,430

remember my first programming class and

116

00:05:16,040 --> 00:05:13,860

how excited I was to be one of two women

117

00:05:18,620 --> 00:05:16,050

in a predominantly male environment and

118

00:05:20,330 --> 00:05:18,630

then walking into a calculus 4 class and

119

00:05:22,250 --> 00:05:20,340

being told that the algebra class was

120

00:05:24,230 --> 00:05:22,260

down the hall like a girl couldn't

121

00:05:26,420 --> 00:05:24,240

handle calc for all of these

122

00:05:29,750 --> 00:05:26,430

expectations challenged me and prepared

123

00:05:32,540 --> 00:05:29,760

me for the workplace I work for NASA

124

00:05:34,940 --> 00:05:32,550

it's the first three comm file servers

125

00:05:37,010 --> 00:05:34,950

used five and a quarter inch floppies as

126

00:05:39,170 --> 00:05:37,020

external media program the first land

127

00:05:41,120 --> 00:05:39,180

application using debase thought that a

128

00:05:42,080 --> 00:05:41,130

10 Meg Bernoulli the size of a textbook

129

00:05:45,350 --> 00:05:42,090

was the greatest thing since sliced

130

00:05:48,200 --> 00:05:45,360

bread technology has is changing at the

131

00:05:50,330 --> 00:05:48,210

speed of light nASA has always been very

132

00:05:53,090 --> 00:05:50,340

supportive of women in the workplace I

133

00:05:55,130 --> 00:05:53,100

have personally experienced this I have

134

00:05:57,140 --> 00:05:55,140

two young men Ryan and red that

135

00:06:00,140 --> 00:05:57,150

literally grew up during my years at

136

00:06:02,120 --> 00:06:00,150

math working for NASA I had challenges

137

00:06:04,159 --> 00:06:02,130

that forced me to balance a career and

138

00:06:07,040 --> 00:06:04,169

being a mom in an office environment

139

00:06:08,870 --> 00:06:07,050

with mostly men before Hurricane Katrina

140

00:06:10,670 --> 00:06:08,880

NASA provided in an on-site daycare

141

00:06:12,950 --> 00:06:10,680

facility it allowed me the opportunity

142

00:06:14,690 --> 00:06:12,960

to spend more time with my children I

143

00:06:17,180 --> 00:06:14,700

could eat lunch with them once or twice

144

00:06:18,530 --> 00:06:17,190

a week when they started school they

145

00:06:20,480 --> 00:06:18,540

would joke with their classmates and

146

00:06:22,940 --> 00:06:20,490

teacher and tell them that their mom was

147

00:06:25,250 --> 00:06:22,950

an astronaut I had to prove myself and

148

00:06:27,470 --> 00:06:25,260

my work while worrying when a child was

149

00:06:29,960 --> 00:06:27,480

sick dealing with homework and projects

150

00:06:32,360 --> 00:06:29,970

after an exhausting day planning dinner

151

00:06:33,830 --> 00:06:32,370

and so on and so on things that others

152

00:06:36,710 --> 00:06:33,840

in my department did not have to focus

153

00:06:39,260 --> 00:06:36,720

on as a woman this made me stronger and

154

00:06:41,270 --> 00:06:39,270

more determined than ever as women we do

155

00:06:43,130 --> 00:06:41,280

have many challenges and obstacles God

156

00:06:45,140 --> 00:06:43,140

made us very strong we need to prove