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00:00:09,778 --> 00:00:14,159

I am Dr. Ruth Jones, the mishap investigation specialist for the

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00:00:14,165 --> 00:00:17,428

NASA Safety Center. I have been with NASA for twenty-one years,

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00:00:17,428 --> 00:00:20,490

sixteen years of those I have been with Marshall Space Flight Center,

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00:00:20,490 --> 00:00:22,640

and five years with the NASA Safety Center.

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00:00:33,669 --> 00:00:36,986

I received my Bachelor of Science degree from the University of

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00:00:36,986 --> 00:00:39,968

Arkansas at Pine Bluff, was the first female to receive a bachelor

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00:00:39,979 --> 00:00:43,996

of science degree in physics from that university. I received my

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00:00:43,996 --> 00:00:47,987

masters and PhD in materials science from Alabama A&M University

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00:00:47,987 --> 00:00:51,789

and was the second African American female to receive a PhD in physics

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00:00:51,789 --> 00:00:53,889

in the State of Alabama.

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00:00:53,889 --> 00:00:58,926

Being an African American female was one of the challenges I had

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00:00:58,926 --> 00:01:02,515

because throughout my educational career, I have been the only female

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00:01:02,515 --> 00:01:06,970

and going to an HBCU really helped that because I was surrounded by

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00:01:07,007 --> 00:01:12,030

people of my color. Having a PhD in Physics is a male-dominated field,

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00:01:12,030 --> 00:01:16,981

so Alabama A&M University kind of embraced me as a family and it

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00:01:16,981 --> 00:01:21,993

kind of gave me role models to look up to and people to interact

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00:01:21,993 --> 00:01:26,035

with, so that experience was very great and that's when I got on with

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00:01:26,041 --> 00:01:30,954

the educational department and I did a co-op with NASA. That is how

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00:01:30,954 --> 00:01:34,135

I started my NASA career.

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00:01:34,146 --> 00:01:38,092

As far as my STEM education, I kind of stumbled upon STEM

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00:01:38,093 --> 00:01:41,255

because when I was in high school.
I did not want to go to college,

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00:01:41,255 --> 00:01:43,540

I actually wanted to go to the
military. My dad was military, he

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00:01:43,540 --> 00:01:47,167

was Army, and he said if he could
do it all over again, he would go

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00:01:47,167 --> 00:01:50,227

into the Air Force. And since my
parents were taking care of two of

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00:01:50,227 --> 00:01:53,394

my cousins, I did not want to put
them through a financial burden,

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00:01:53,394 --> 00:01:56,474

so I wanted to go to the military
so I could go to school for free.

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00:01:56,474 --> 00:01:59,792

But due to a medical condition, I
could not go into the military,

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00:01:59,792 --> 00:02:03,884

so looking at the opportunities
in my hometown, which are very

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00:02:03,884 --> 00:02:07,706

limited, I knew then that I had
to get an education, so that is

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00:02:07,706 --> 00:02:10,580

when I decided to go to the
University of Arkansas at Pine

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00:02:10,580 --> 00:02:15,048

Bluff. But initially I was an accounting major and I only majored

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00:02:15,048 --> 00:02:17,991
in accounting because I wanted to enjoy the college life and I knew

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00:02:17,991 --> 00:02:21,372
accounting was easy.

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00:02:21,372 --> 00:02:24,510
My college algebra professor, Dr. Mea, he realized and sat that I

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00:02:24,510 --> 00:02:27,971
had potential to go further in mathematics and science, so he

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00:02:27,971 --> 00:02:31,318
persuaded me to change my major to physics. Initially I was

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00:02:31,318 --> 00:02:34,620
hesitant about it because I was like, hey, this is going to cramp

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00:02:34,620 --> 00:02:37,536
my style in enjoying the college life and receiving my bachelor

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00:02:37,536 --> 00:02:40,615
of science degree with honors. But after I took some of the

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00:02:40,615 --> 00:02:43,343
accounting classes, they were not challenging enough for me, so

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00:02:43,343 --> 00:02:47,055
that is when I decided to change

my major to physics. However, Dr.

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00:02:47,055 --> 00:02:50,540

Mea failed to tell me that I would be the only physics major

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00:02:50,540 --> 00:02:54,483

on campus. So being the only physics major on campus, half of

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00:02:54,483 --> 00:02:57,891

my classes, well, my upper level physics courses, were just me and

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00:02:57,891 --> 00:03:01,942

Dr. Mea, so that taught me how to become more disciplined and how to

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00:03:01,942 --> 00:03:04,914

manage my time wisely. So, just to sum it up in a nutshell, I did

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00:03:04,914 --> 00:03:10,046

graduate with honors and I did enjoy my college life at the same time.

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00:03:18,783 --> 00:03:24,971

Okay, I see the state of African American STEM education, right

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00:03:24,971 --> 00:03:29,697

now we are in a state where it does not really exist and that is

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00:03:29,717 --> 00:03:33,773

due to lack of role models and mentors. Mostly African Americans,

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00:03:33,773 --> 00:03:38,236

we gravitate towards the sports

and businesses because that is

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00:03:38,236 --> 00:03:43,045

where the money is. No one really sees how science is in everyday

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00:03:43,045 --> 00:03:48,951

life, so, therefore, we have that lack of role models and mentors in

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00:03:48,951 --> 00:03:52,780

that field. And also, due to the lack of funding to the schools in

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00:03:52,780 --> 00:03:58,071

African American communities, they don't have the up-to-date laboratories,

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00:03:58,071 --> 00:04:01,305

and some of the schools, they don't; really have like, AP

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00:04:01,305 --> 00:04:04,991

physics or AP calculus. They give you the basic and the minimum,

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00:04:04,991 --> 00:04:09,092

so, therefore, students don't really get a chance to go to the highest

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00:04:09,092 --> 00:04:13,851

potential. So, those are some of the challenges that I see within

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00:04:13,851 --> 00:04:17,710

the African American community as far as STEM education.

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00:04:17,710 --> 00:04:21,913

Image is also another challenge I

see in the African American community

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00:04:21,913 --> 00:04:25,879

with STEM education because no one wants to be seen as a nerd or a geek

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00:04:25,879 --> 00:04:29,816

or goofy, and that is mostly when you see when you Google scientists or

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00:04:29,816 --> 00:04:33,915

engineers. You are mostly going to see a geek or a nerd, mostly they are

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00:04:33,955 --> 00:04:38,903

white males, so we dont really see ourselves in those images, we see

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00:04:38,923 --> 00:04:42,919

ourselves as being an athlete or an entertainer. So we have to change that

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00:04:42,919 --> 00:04:46,987

image and let them know that African Americans can be smart and sexy or they

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00:04:47,008 --> 00:04:50,966

can be handsome and smart, but we need to make sure we have enough role models

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00:04:50,966 --> 00:04:54,744

in order to display that image. Until we get enough role models to go out and

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00:04:54,744 --> 00:04:58,665

illustrate that, the students will not really gravitate towards the STEM

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00:04:58,665 --> 00:05:02,571

education. And also we need the teachers

that will challenge these students and

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00:05:02,571 --> 00:05:05,998

when they see they have potential
in those math and science classes,

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00:05:05,998 --> 00:05:10,007

we need to make sure that we encourage
them to go into those fields instead

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00:05:10,007 --> 00:05:13,047

of saying, "No, you dont need to
take physics because that is too

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00:05:13,047 --> 00:05:16,623

hard," or "No, you have to graduate
in order to pass this class." So

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00:05:16,623 --> 00:05:20,221

we need to encourage them to take
those classes and challenge them

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00:05:20,221 --> 00:05:25,736

more so than just discouraging
them to take the sciences. Another

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00:05:25,736 --> 00:05:28,610

reason why African Americans dont
really get into the STEM education

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00:05:28,610 --> 00:05:32,699

is we think it is hard, and we
want something easy. I know when

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00:05:32,699 --> 00:05:35,439

I went to college, I majored in
accounting at first. It was not

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00:05:35,439 --> 00:05:38,759

because I thought that physics

was hard, I just knew that

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00:05:38,759 --> 00:05:42,071

physics was easier because I took physics and accounting in college,

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00:05:42,071 --> 00:05:45,886

I mean high school, and I love them both, but just making that choice

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00:05:45,906 --> 00:05:49,005

between one or two, going to college, I just figured, hey,

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00:05:49,005 --> 00:05:52,087

I will major in accounting that way I can enjoy this college

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00:05:52,087 --> 00:05:55,798

life and get my grades done. But I never thought I don't want to do

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00:05:55,798 --> 00:05:59,686

it because it is hard. Some people and some students don't want to

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00:05:59,686 --> 00:06:02,749

get into the STEM education because they think it is very hard, and

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00:06:02,749 --> 00:06:06,764

if they have that foundation early, then they can build on that

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00:06:06,764 --> 00:06:09,489

foundation and it won't be as hard because they feel more

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00:06:09,489 --> 00:06:12,923

comfortable taking those classes.

But until then, if they dont take

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00:06:12,923 --> 00:06:15,876

those classes early, then they
kind of distance themselves from

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00:06:15,876 --> 00:06:17,494

the math and sciences.

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00:06:17,494 --> 00:06:20,759

Growing up in a small town like
West Helena, we dont really have

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00:06:20,759 --> 00:06:25,564

the NASA in order to make us
gravitate toward the sciences,

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00:06:25,564 --> 00:06:30,720

it does not give us the self-esteem
that we need. So my first graduate

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00:06:30,720 --> 00:06:36,616

co-op here at NASA was very, very
embracing because I actually, when

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00:06:36,616 --> 00:06:40,952

I first came, I was nervous and
did not think my university or my

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00:06:40,952 --> 00:06:47,356

hometown had prepared me for such
a big job. But once I got here, they

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00:06:47,356 --> 00:06:52,770

knew, or I knew as much as they did
and I learned from them. I am never

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00:06:52,770 --> 00:06:57,873

too bold or too shy to say if I
dont know something, so I am

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00:06:57,873 --> 00:07:01,875

always good at asking questions.
So I came across Dr. Frazier early

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00:07:01,875 --> 00:07:07,069

in my career. He kind of molded me
as far as how to ask questions

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00:07:07,069 --> 00:07:10,994

and how to go about doing things.
So that really helped my career

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00:07:10,994 --> 00:07:13,880

early on because that boosted my
self-esteem, boosted my

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00:07:13,880 --> 00:07:18,860

self-confidence. The challenge
I see here at NASA is, for one,

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00:07:18,860 --> 00:07:22,819

I am a double minority, I am Black
and I am a female, kind of like a

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00:07:22,819 --> 00:07:26,100

triple minority because I am also
young. Most of the people that I

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00:07:26,100 --> 00:07:30,188

work with are people who actually
could be my parents. They are a lot

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00:07:30,188 --> 00:07:33,567

older than I am, so I embraced that
early on. When I first came, I

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00:07:33,567 --> 00:07:37,897

worked with Dr. Lachowski, and
he was like a well-known

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00:07:37,897 --> 00:07:41,901
scientist, but he was old, but
he knew his stuff. I really

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00:07:41,901 --> 00:07:45,169
enjoyed working with him, and
being in a lot of the meetings,

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00:07:45,169 --> 00:07:48,152
sometimes I was the only female
in the meeting, and nine

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00:07:48,152 --> 00:07:51,211
times out of ten, I would be the
only Black in the meeting. When

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00:07:51,211 --> 00:07:55,976
I look around, I was just like,
awe because I was in the room with

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00:07:56,023 --> 00:07:59,098
all these well-known scientists,
and if I could sit at a table with

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00:07:59,098 --> 00:08:02,948
them, wow, I must really be good.
But I did not take it as an

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00:08:02,948 --> 00:08:07,016
arrogant way, I just took it as a
way to learn from them, so it

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00:08:07,016 --> 00:08:10,146
taught me to be humble because
I work with a lot of well-known

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00:08:10,146 --> 00:08:14,693
people, and people who have written
a lot of books, they give talks,

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00:08:14,693 --> 00:08:18,038

they have their own shows. So, that taught me how to become more humble and

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00:08:18,038 --> 00:08:23,793

not afraid to ask questions. During that time, what I realize is that

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00:08:23,793 --> 00:08:27,395

no matter what your color is, no matter what your gender is, it

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00:08:27,395 --> 00:08:33,081

matters what is in your head. Education, I say it all the time,

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00:08:33,101 --> 00:08:35,488

it is like Coca-Cola, it is the real thing. Education is like

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00:08:35,488 --> 00:08:38,676

Scotch tape, you cannot see it, but you know it is there. But more

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00:08:38,676 --> 00:08:41,865

importantly, education is like American Express, you can never

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00:08:41,865 --> 00:08:45,000

leave home without it. And with that being said, nobody can take

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00:08:45,000 --> 00:08:49,869

that away from me. And I know later in my career, I have gotten

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00:08:49,869 --> 00:08:53,857

challenges about my PhD coming from a Historically Black College,

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00:08:53,857 --> 00:08:57,856

University, and some people do not look at getting a PhD from Alabama

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00:08:57,856 --> 00:09:04,934

A&M is equal to getting a PhD from Auburn or Alabama. So that, I had

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00:09:04,934 --> 00:09:07,997

to prove myself that my knowledge is just as good at the knowledge

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00:09:07,997 --> 00:09:11,993

from Alabama or Auburn, but a lot of people do not see that. They

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00:09:11,993 --> 00:09:16,028

look at the HBCUs, they are not equipping their students properly

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00:09:16,028 --> 00:09:19,086

because we don't have the state of the art equipment, but we have

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00:09:19,126 --> 00:09:22,179

some of the best educators there, the best professors, and these

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00:09:22,179 --> 00:09:25,597

professors are well-known. And I have gotten that knowledge from them

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00:09:25,597 --> 00:09:30,844

and it has helped me to increase my career here at NASA. And I have been

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00:09:30,844 --> 00:09:35,113

moving up and up and that is because of my humble experiences and also

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00:09:35,113 --> 00:09:40,860

because of the family embracing I
got from my HBCU professors and my

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00:09:40,860 --> 00:09:43,500

mentors here at NASA as well.

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00:09:43,500 --> 00:09:47,752

Since this is STEM
education, and you know, I have

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00:09:47,752 --> 00:09:50,833

changed the acronym from STEM to
my own STEM, so I think we need to

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00:09:50,833 --> 00:09:54,967

STEM for STEM. And what I mean by
that is STEM what I came up with

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00:09:54,967 --> 00:09:59,960

an acronym is "support communities
and education," so that is we need

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00:10:00,020 --> 00:10:03,183

to start giving back to our education,
the ones who have made it out and

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00:10:03,183 --> 00:10:05,487

have good jobs and education, we
need to go back to those communities

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00:10:05,487 --> 00:10:10,031

and serve as role models and give
little projects to show students that

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00:10:10,031 --> 00:10:15,625

STEM is the way to go. My hometown,
West Helena, is very small and I

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00:10:15,625 --> 00:10:22,958

go back and give educational tours
or educational camps at my former

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00:10:22,958 --> 00:10:25,780

schools, high school through
elementary, well, elementary

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00:10:25,780 --> 00:10:30,120

through high school. And the students
look at me as if I am some type of

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00:10:30,120 --> 00:10:33,958

superstar, but I tell them that I
came from the same community as

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00:10:33,958 --> 00:10:37,081

they did and if I can make it then
they can too, but they need to see

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00:10:37,081 --> 00:10:41,012

more of us in order to get that
confidence and build their self-esteem,

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00:10:41,012 --> 00:10:44,861

but they can do it. And the "T"
would be we need to talk about how

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00:10:44,861 --> 00:10:48,760

STEM is related to everyday life.
When I was in high school, my

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00:10:48,810 --> 00:10:52,743

college algebra, well, yeah, my
college algebra teacher, Mr. Earnest

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00:10:52,743 --> 00:10:55,859

Simpson would take off like ten
points if you left off the negative

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00:10:55,859 --> 00:10:59,212

sign of a problem. And I am like,
it is just a negative sign, I got

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00:10:59,236 --> 00:11:01,939

the problem right, I just forgot
to put down a negative sign. And

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00:11:01,939 --> 00:11:03,939

the first thing he would say, and
I was in the ninth grade, and I will

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00:11:03,939 --> 00:11:05,939

never forget this, he said, "That
could be the cause of the Space

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00:11:05,939 --> 00:11:09,800

Shuttle blowing up." But, you know,
I am in the ninth grade and oh Mr.

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00:11:09,800 --> 00:11:13,827

Simpson, you are just taking it too
far, I want my points, but he looked

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00:11:13,827 --> 00:11:17,104

at it like this is real life and
you have to be very meticulous and

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00:11:17,104 --> 00:11:19,820

very careful when you do your
mathematics. So I think we as a

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00:11:19,820 --> 00:11:22,064

community, I think we need to talk
more about how STEM relates to everyday

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00:11:22,064 --> 00:11:25,595

life. And then the "E," we need to
expose students early so that they

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00:11:25,595 --> 00:11:30,898

can embrace it early on because
once they get that foundation, then

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00:11:30,898 --> 00:11:32,898

they can build upon that foundation.
But if they don't have a good

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00:11:32,898 --> 00:11:35,961

foundation in math and science,
then they will never gravitate

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00:11:35,961 --> 00:11:39,801

towards it later on in life. Also,
we need to encourage them that they

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00:11:39,801 --> 00:11:44,878

can do this, so if we encourage the
students at an early age that they

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00:11:44,878 --> 00:11:48,793

can do the STEM and math and science,
then they will more than often pursue

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00:11:48,793 --> 00:11:50,284

it later on in life.

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00:11:50,284 --> 00:11:54,884

And then the M is we need
to mentor our students to become

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00:11:54,884 --> 00:11:59,858

the future scientists, future mathematicians,
future engineers, and future technologists.

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00:11:59,858 --> 00:12:03,955

So that is what I mean we need
to STEM for STEM.

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00:12:12,651 --> 00:12:17,819

I saw Dr. Frazier as a great mentor because he was very personable and

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00:12:17,819 --> 00:12:23,111

he knew his stuff. He was one of the, I think, the best scientists

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00:12:23,117 --> 00:12:28,000

here at Marshall, and being an African American, really, that

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00:12:28,000 --> 00:12:31,232

just put the icing on the cake because if he could do it then I

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00:12:31,232 --> 00:12:34,850

knew I could do it was well. And he challenged me and me embraced

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00:12:34,850 --> 00:12:39,031

me to just do more like, dont be afraid to ask questions, dont be

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00:12:39,031 --> 00:12:43,041

afraid to, you know, know what you want, and dont be afraid to just

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00:12:43,041 --> 00:12:45,862

ask for more work. So, with that push, that challenge, I was like,

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00:12:45,862 --> 00:12:50,934

"I can do this." So, he encouraged me a lot as well as, you know, he

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00:12:50,934 --> 00:12:54,926

challenged me, and just being someone of the caliber to embrace a young

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00:12:54,926 --> 00:13:01,837
intern at that time, or co-op, that
means a lot because I have worked in a

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00:13:01,837 --> 00:13:03,837
lot of different organizations and
sometimes people are very hesitant

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00:13:03,837 --> 00:13:07,953
about helping you. And I dont know
if it is because they are afraid of

195
00:13:07,953 --> 00:13:11,195
losing their job or being so young
that I may come in and replace them,

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00:13:11,195 --> 00:13:14,798
but Dr. Frazier, he was not like that.
He was more like, okay, what do you

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00:13:14,798 --> 00:13:18,036
need to do, do you want to work with
me, I mean, he just offered so many

198
00:13:18,036 --> 00:13:22,978
opportunities. I am very appreciative
for him being so instrumental in my

199
00:13:22,978 --> 00:13:26,201
life because if it was not for him,
I dont know if I would be where I

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00:13:26,201 --> 00:13:30,789
am today. I probably would, but I
probably would not feel as confident,

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00:13:30,789 --> 00:13:35,965
I should say. He really boosted my
self-esteem, boosted my self-confidence,

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00:13:35,965 --> 00:13:39,158
and he was just somebody I could go
talk to at any time. He was never

203
00:13:39,158 --> 00:13:44,002
too busy. He has written books, he has
patents, I mean, Dr. Frazier is like

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00:13:44,002 --> 00:13:48,723
a genius. In my book, I think he is a
genius. And to actually work with him

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00:13:48,723 --> 00:13:52,847
hand-in-hand, to have him as my
personal mentor, that really meant a lot.

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00:13:52,847 --> 00:13:57,911
I did have mentors. At home, I
had a mentor who was non-science;

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00:13:57,911 --> 00:14:02,064
her name was Felicia Buchanan Jones
and I just looked up to her because

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00:14:02,064 --> 00:14:05,128
she was the first person I knew in
my community that actually went and

209
00:14:05,128 --> 00:14:07,902
got an advanced degree. While she
got an advanced degree, she got a

210
00:14:07,902 --> 00:14:13,047
4.0 GPA, so I am like, I am going to
get a graduate degree and I am going

211
00:14:13,047 --> 00:14:17,870
to get a 4.0. I pursued a PhD in
physics and I did end up with a 4.0

212

00:14:17,870 --> 00:14:23,462

GPA. I also have scientists, or STEM, mentors and one is Dr. Shelia

213

00:14:23,462 --> 00:14:27,521

Nash-Stevenson who was actually the first African American female to

214

00:14:27,521 --> 00:14:31,764

receive a PhD in physics in the State of Alabama. When I did my first

215

00:14:31,764 --> 00:14:36,933

graduate co-op here at Marshall, Dr. Donald Frazier was also my mentor,

216

00:14:36,933 --> 00:14:41,415

so I kind of went to him, back and forth, for guidance as far as being

217

00:14:41,415 --> 00:14:44,712

a female in the science field, in a STEM field.

218

00:14:53,348 --> 00:14:55,956

By me going back to my hometown and talking to the students

219

00:14:55,956 --> 00:15:00,000

about what I do and that I grew up in that town as well,

220

00:15:00,000 --> 00:15:03,155

and now that I work for NASA, it has a very great impact on the

221

00:15:03,155 --> 00:15:05,887

students. I have had so many students come up to me and tell

222

00:15:05,887 --> 00:15:09,176
me if it were not for me, they
would have majored in accounting

223

00:15:09,176 --> 00:15:12,090
or they would have majored in PE.
But I have a lot of students who

224

00:15:12,090 --> 00:15:15,005
have come back and said because of
me they majored in science, actually,

225

00:15:15,005 --> 00:15:18,448
my niece who is going to be a senior
this year, she said she is going to

226

00:15:18,448 --> 00:15:23,326
major in physics and I was like,
really? I was really excited. So,

227

00:15:23,326 --> 00:15:29,537
I think the impact has challenged
the students to work harder. I

228

00:15:29,537 --> 00:15:33,030
think when the students see
someone from their own hometown,

229

00:15:33,030 --> 00:15:36,065
someone who came from the same
circumstances they come from,

230

00:15:36,065 --> 00:15:40,017
if I can come from that small
hometown or city and work for

231

00:15:40,017 --> 00:15:42,909
NASA, then that is giving them
encouragement and hope that they

232

00:15:42,909 --> 00:15:44,909

can do it as well. I have had students go off and get their

233

00:15:44,909 --> 00:15:48,827

masters and PhDs in sciences, not physics, but biology, so

234

00:15:48,827 --> 00:15:53,768

that is a plus, chemistry, that is a plus, and mathematics. So I

235

00:15:53,768 --> 00:15:56,883

think that I have impacted my community a lot, so that is why

236

00:15:56,883 --> 00:15:58,883

I encourage other people to go out to their own communities and

237

00:15:58,883 --> 00:16:02,884

give back because when they, when students see that you actually

238

00:16:02,884 --> 00:16:06,867

came from those humble grounds or from the same high school, same

239

00:16:06,867 --> 00:16:10,598

elementary school, that is giving them hope that, you know what, if

240

00:16:10,598 --> 00:16:13,928

they can do it, I can do it too. Because a lot of students, they

241

00:16:13,928 --> 00:16:16,820

look at people who they cannot touch and they call them their

242

00:16:16,820 --> 00:16:20,684
role models, but I have to correct
them. They are not their role

243

00:16:20,704 --> 00:16:23,905
models; they are more so like
their goal models. That is a goal

244

00:16:23,925 --> 00:16:26,532
that they want to reach. I look
at role models like somebody you

245

00:16:26,532 --> 00:16:28,532
can pick up the telephone and call,
a role model is somebody you can

246

00:16:28,532 --> 00:16:31,415
actually have a one-on-one
conversation with, you can go

247

00:16:31,432 --> 00:16:34,873
by and visit them. But goal models,
you know, students look at Steph

248

00:16:34,874 --> 00:16:37,983
Curry as a role model, they can not
just call up Steph Curry like, hey Steph

249

00:16:37,983 --> 00:16:42,085
you know, how do I do a three-point
shot. They cannot do that, but a

250

00:16:42,085 --> 00:16:45,148
role model like myself, they can
call me, I give them my phone number,

251

00:16:45,148 --> 00:16:48,095
I give my email addresses, I say
call me anytime, and I go home at

252

00:16:48,095 --> 00:16:51,662
least once a month. I try to visit
schools very frequently, so they

253

00:16:51,662 --> 00:16:55,623
know where my parents live, some
students stop by and say hey, Dr.

254

00:16:55,623 --> 00:16:58,927
Ruth, or they call me by my nickname,
which I won't disclose on this

255

00:16:58,927 --> 00:17:02,016
setting here, but they feel
comfortable and they come talk to

256

00:17:02,016 --> 00:17:05,767
me about things they want to pursue
and how do they go about working

257

00:17:05,767 --> 00:17:08,833
for NASA, how do they go about
going to work for industries in

258

00:17:08,833 --> 00:17:13,727
the STEM fields. So, actually I
have impacted my community a lot,

259

00:17:13,727 --> 00:17:16,710
I am just trying to encourage others
to do it because, you know, you

260

00:17:16,710 --> 00:17:19,920
cannot save the world, but I am trying
to. It just takes one person at a

261

00:17:19,920 --> 00:17:23,852
time and I am just trying to be that
leader and hopefully other people

262

00:17:23,852 --> 00:17:26,998
will just come back and give back
because I really tell them no matter

263

00:17:26,998 --> 00:17:29,949
what you do in life, make sure you
always come back to your stomping

264

00:17:29,949 --> 00:17:33,911
grounds and give back. It does not
have to be money because money you

265

00:17:33,911 --> 00:17:38,693
use it and it is gone, but time is
more valuable than money. And if

266

00:17:38,693 --> 00:17:42,084
you give students your time, they
will remember that a whole lot more

267

00:17:42,085 --> 00:17:46,339
than you just giving them some money
because they are just going to spend

268

00:17:46,350 --> 00:17:49,700
even know what they did with the
money. They can recall that time

269

00:17:49,731 --> 00:17:53,006
you came to them and taught them
at that school or you helped them

270

00:17:53,006 --> 00:17:55,681
with that math problem or whatever
problems they had, they will