



1  
00:00:00,300 --> 00:00:01,835  
My name is Ashlee Bracewell.

2  
00:00:01,835 --> 00:00:03,636  
I'm a structural test engineer

3  
00:00:03,636 --> 00:00:06,639  
in the test laboratory at NASA's  
Marshall Space Flight Center.

4  
00:00:07,007 --> 00:00:10,944  
And this week, we're celebrating  
National Engineer's Week, with today

5  
00:00:10,944 --> 00:00:17,584  
being introduce a girl to Engineering Day.

6  
00:00:17,584 --> 00:00:18,485  
Growing up,

7  
00:00:18,485 --> 00:00:23,223  
my brother introduced me to a lot of space  
themed video games through playing.

8  
00:00:23,223 --> 00:00:27,660  
You know, I got to see the vastness  
of space and just how awesome it is.

9  
00:00:27,660 --> 00:00:31,798  
And at that early stage,  
I pretty much decided that I wanted

10  
00:00:31,798 --> 00:00:35,235  
to spend my life contributing to something  
that was bigger than myself.

11  
00:00:35,235 --> 00:00:37,570  
And what I felt like  
would help a lot of people.

12

00:00:37,871 --> 00:00:39,906

And that was space for me

13

00:00:42,976 --> 00:00:46,613

as a structural test engineer

I work with and sometimes lead

14

00:00:46,813 --> 00:00:50,550

a team of engineers,

designers, analysts, customers, etc.

15

00:00:50,884 --> 00:00:54,387

to design and execute

structural tests on space flight hardware.

16

00:00:54,854 --> 00:00:57,390

Sometimes that means full up

rocket components.

17

00:00:57,524 --> 00:01:00,360

So a good example would be NASA's

new rocket,

18

00:01:00,360 --> 00:01:03,463

the Space Launch System that just launched

the Artemis One Mission.

19

00:01:03,930 --> 00:01:06,733

My group did all the qualification

testing for that.

20

00:01:07,267 --> 00:01:10,470

And another commercial example

is what's going on right behind me.

21

00:01:10,470 --> 00:01:12,372

This is something

I've worked on a lot lately.

22

00:01:12,372 --> 00:01:15,442

This is your Center  
five qualification test.

23

00:01:15,575 --> 00:01:17,010

This is where we're going to be qualifying

24

00:01:17,010 --> 00:01:19,245

their upper stage  
for their brand new rocket.

25

00:01:19,245 --> 00:01:24,484

The Vulcan Center Launch System.

26

00:01:24,484 --> 00:01:29,122

Most rewarding is I get to come every day  
to a place that I love this test

27

00:01:29,122 --> 00:01:32,959

facility and work with a team that I love,  
super talented people

28

00:01:33,293 --> 00:01:36,896

doing exactly what I love with,  
which is these huge structural tests.

29

00:01:37,230 --> 00:01:38,264

And I get to go home every day

30

00:01:38,264 --> 00:01:42,702

knowing that I've completed my goal  
of getting to contribute to spaceflight.

31

00:01:42,702 --> 00:01:47,140

Most challenging, I would say, is finding  
new ways and better ways to do that

32

00:01:47,140 --> 00:01:53,213

and also share it with everyone else.

33

00:01:53,213 --> 00:01:56,749

I went to an engineering school  
where I graduated in my class.

34

00:01:56,749 --> 00:02:01,654

One out of a few women in a super male  
dominated major especially.

35

00:02:01,888 --> 00:02:05,091

So it was very helpful  
coming to Marshall into an asset

36

00:02:05,325 --> 00:02:07,894

where we really prioritized diversity,  
right?

37

00:02:07,894 --> 00:02:11,764

Like my team lead, a lot of my bosses  
are actually women and I was super

38

00:02:11,764 --> 00:02:16,002

supportive and helpful for me right away  
to create a supportive environment

39

00:02:16,002 --> 00:02:23,042

and someplace  
I can continue to build that environment.

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00:02:23,042 --> 00:02:25,612

I would say it's incredibly difficult

41

00:02:25,912 --> 00:02:28,615

to try to think of what you want to do  
for the rest of your life,

42

00:02:28,615 --> 00:02:30,817

what job you want to have  
for the rest of your life.

43

00:02:30,817 --> 00:02:32,085

So don't do that.

44

00:02:32,085 --> 00:02:34,954

Instead,

search for the thing that excites you,

45

00:02:34,954 --> 00:02:38,558

inspires you, and the thing

you want to really be a part of.

46

00:02:38,958 --> 00:02:40,894

Chase that down with everything you've got.