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00:00:07,029 --> 00:00:12,870

In recognition of African-American History Month, NASA salutes the contributions of African-Americans

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00:00:12,870 --> 00:00:16,500

to the cause of space exploration.

3

00:00:16,500 --> 00:00:20,340

\h  
Hello, Karen Harper, how may I help you?

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00:00:20,340 --> 00:00:28,329

I work in the Office of the Chief Information Officer ... my role is the IT Workforce Manager,

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00:00:28,329 --> 00:00:33,489

and the responsibility that I have within the office of the CIO is to look at their

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00:00:33,489 --> 00:00:40,629

IT workforce and make sure that we have the appropriate competencies to do the job within

7

00:00:40,629 --> 00:00:43,320

the IT community for the agency.

8

00:00:43,320 --> 00:00:49,480

In that is looking at workforce analysis, workforce gaps in terms of the IT community

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00:00:49,480 --> 00:00:55,460

and then being able to make recommendations to the CIO where we perceive to be gaps and

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00:00:55,460 --> 00:01:00,960

how we can plan for the future and the next generation of workers -- the IT workers within

11

00:01:00,960 --> 00:01:01,960

NASA.

12  
00:01:01,960 --> 00:01:10,300  
I started out with the Air Force in human resource management, so that prepared me for

13  
00:01:10,300 --> 00:01:13,880  
13, 14 years -- looking at the workforce

14  
00:01:13,880 --> 00:01:21,590  
Starting in 1995 I started working for Glenn Research Center as the legislative liaison

15  
00:01:21,590 --> 00:01:28,119  
officer for the center director, and in that position I had the opportunity to help advocate

16  
00:01:28,119 --> 00:01:32,969  
the technology, the importance of the NASA Center within and throughout the state of

17  
00:01:32,969 --> 00:01:35,590  
Ohio.

18  
00:01:35,590 --> 00:01:41,299  
Mentoring touches my heart and it's because when I was growing up, other than having a

19  
00:01:41,299 --> 00:01:46,719  
very loving family - I did not have any mentoring relationships.

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00:01:46,719 --> 00:01:51,729  
I was discouraged by a guidance counselor that told me I was not college material.

21  
00:01:51,729 --> 00:01:57,590  
It went to a deep place for me to prove that I could go to college (that) I was college

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00:01:57,590 --> 00:01:58,590

material.

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00:01:58,590 --> 00:02:01,790

I did graduate -- went on to pursue my masters.

24

00:02:01,790 --> 00:02:11,620

I think for a young person to be prepared,  
they need to get engaged in STEM disciplines