

A portrait of Fran Lawas-Grodek, a woman with short dark hair and bangs, wearing glasses and a purple shirt. She is looking slightly to the right of the camera. The background is dark blue with some faint, stylized white patterns.

Fran Lawas-Grodek
Computer Engineer

1
00:00:07,890 --> 00:00:31,970
"My name is Fran Lawas-Grodek.

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00:00:31,970 --> 00:00:37,170
I've been with NASA for, this will be my
29th year at NASA.

3
00:00:37,170 --> 00:00:41,850
I'm a computer engineer in the IT Security
Office here on the lab.

4
00:00:41,850 --> 00:00:46,920
I work with a group of people where we protect
the lab, labs data that flows through the

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00:00:46,920 --> 00:00:47,920
computer networks.

6
00:00:47,920 --> 00:00:52,200
One of my main responsibilities is the firewall
team lead.

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00:00:52,200 --> 00:00:58,969
The firewall protects the data that comes
in and out of the lab from the public Internet

8
00:00:58,969 --> 00:01:04,199
and what I do with my part is to make sure
that the adequate protections, the sufficient

9
00:01:04,199 --> 00:01:07,040
protections are put in place within the firewall.

10
00:01:07,040 --> 00:01:11,950
What I like most about working at NASA is
the people that I've met and worked with

11
00:01:11,950 --> 00:01:13,170
along my way.

12
00:01:13,170 --> 00:01:18,490
We have such a great diversity of people,
people from all backgrounds, different races,

13
00:01:18,490 --> 00:01:22,130
different cultures, different beliefs and
we are all working together to achieve the

14
00:01:22,130 --> 00:01:23,350
same goal.

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00:01:23,350 --> 00:01:26,200
I graduated from Cleveland State University.

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00:01:26,200 --> 00:01:33,509
My major originally was, it was Accounting,
but I found Computer Science to come fairly

17
00:01:33,509 --> 00:01:39,790
easily there so I switched my major and
I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in

18
00:01:39,790 --> 00:01:41,259
Computer Science.

19
00:01:41,259 --> 00:01:45,430
I can say that my parents inspired me the
most when I was growing up.

20
00:01:45,430 --> 00:01:48,310
They came here and they had no family.

21
00:01:48,310 --> 00:01:54,790
They're the first generation of their kind
here from their country, from their home towns.

22
00:01:54,790 --> 00:02:01,659
And even within the Cleveland area, my father

was the first doctor in his hospital from

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00:02:01,659 --> 00:02:03,310

his country.

24

00:02:03,310 --> 00:02:08,360

So, knowing all those things that they've had to deal with, the differences and the

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00:02:08,360 --> 00:02:13,980

cultures, that they were able to succeed is what's inspiring to me that I know that

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00:02:13,980 --> 00:02:18,230

I can succeed if I want to try something different.

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00:02:18,230 --> 00:02:22,630

What I would say to young people in preparing for a career of their choice is to find the

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00:02:22,630 --> 00:02:25,540

job that they would do for free.

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00:02:25,540 --> 00:02:30,430

This would be the job they would have the passion, and it would make them happy in doing