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00:00:00,729 --> 00:00:21,730

I'm most proud of my heritage in the sense of the fact that African Americans are people

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00:00:21,730 --> 00:00:23,759

of strength.\h

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00:00:23,759 --> 00:00:28,019

We are people of perseverance and we are spiritual people.\h

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00:00:28,019 --> 00:00:34,790

And when you put those things together I think you get a community of folks who are loving,

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00:00:34,790 --> 00:00:40,989

kind, we embrace all people and at the same time we have a way of loving one another that

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00:00:40,989 --> 00:00:43,960

maybe is not experienced anywhere else.\h

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00:00:43,960 --> 00:00:48,469

Only in a NASA environment is when you are allowed to actually exercise those things

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00:00:48,469 --> 00:00:52,359

that you bring to the table that are unique to you, those things that are critical to

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00:00:52,359 --> 00:00:56,739

the mission and watching them come together and mold together such that you address the

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00:00:56,739 --> 00:01:01,260

NASA mission, you see this product following off into space and when I was at school at

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00:01:01,260 --> 00:01:06,220

MIT there's nothing better than actually doing the space stuff.

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00:01:06,220 --> 00:01:10,990

Putting stuff into orbit just doesn't compare to driving a car or building a car.\h

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00:01:10,990 --> 00:01:17,520

Well I am the product of two teachers from a small town in South Louisiana.\h

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00:01:17,520 --> 00:01:26,800

And it is a highlight; it is an unexpected emergent property that a small boy from South

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00:01:26,800 --> 00:01:30,670

Louisiana who had no idea what he was going to do when he got to college, ended up at

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00:01:30,670 --> 00:01:32,080

NASA.\h

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00:01:32,080 --> 00:01:37,580

Having dealt with and played with Major Matt Mason as a kid, the space toys, never thought

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00:01:37,580 --> 00:01:41,420

in my wildest dreams that I would be here at NASA doing the things that I do today.\h

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00:01:41,420 --> 00:01:46,140

And it's only through the grace of God that I'm here.\h

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00:01:46,140 --> 00:01:50,930

In preparation for working with NASA especially for those that are young, I would suggest

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00:01:50,930 --> 00:01:59,360

that they learned to 1) read well, write well,

understand math and continue to study science

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00:01:59,360 --> 00:02:01,310

along with that along the way.

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00:02:01,310 --> 00:02:06,670

The other part of it is that get comfortable speaking about what's important to you.

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00:02:06,670 --> 00:02:13,209

I learned a long time ago that you can have a great idea but if you are not able to communicate

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00:02:13,209 --> 00:02:18,269

that idea in written or oral forms the idea doesn't exist.

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00:02:18,269 --> 00:02:25,180

Until it leaves your brain and is communicated to someone else it just won't exist in that

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00:02:25,180 --> 00:02:29,909

how great you are and how wonderful you are, the world will never know.

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00:02:29,909 --> 00:02:36,909

The reason that I am an engineer is because it came from my grandfather and then my dad

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00:02:36,909 --> 00:02:38,319

after that.\h

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00:02:38,319 --> 00:02:41,909

My grandfather could build anything.\h

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00:02:41,909 --> 00:02:50,451

He could visualize it and then create it out of nothing but he was never able to do it

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00:02:50,451 --> 00:02:54,630

in an environment where he had to support  
a community, you know?

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00:02:54,630 --> 00:03:01,260

He did it from a survival standpoint but those  
skills and capabilities I watched him and

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00:03:01,260 --> 00:03:07,400

my father and my uncles do those things and  
that just inspired me to figure out how stuff

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00:03:07,400 --> 00:03:12,880

works, why do things work the way they do  
and then turn that around and then get it