1
00:00:10,309 --> 00:00:15,110
My name's Wayne Wong, I'm at the NASA Glenn Research Center, and I am the Advanced Sterling

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00:00:15,110 --> 00:00:20,000
Converter Lead Engineer, and what that entails is I've been working with a company called

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00:00:20,000 --> 00:00:24,480
Sun Power to develop the advanced sterling converter, and this is a key technology for

4
00:00:24,480 --> 00:00:27,779
NASA's future radioisotope power systems.

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00:00:27,779 --> 00:00:33,960
Many of the missions that we've flown already, and these missions have existed for decades,

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00:00:33,960 --> 00:00:35,920
are based on radioisotope power systems.

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00:00:35,920 --> 00:00:41,489
Basically, these are necessary for any application that doesn't use solar energy or cannot use

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00:00:41,489 --> 00:00:42,920
solar energy.

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00:00:42,920 --> 00:00:48,250
So what we're developing is a new technology that is much more efficient to make the best

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00:00:48,250 --> 00:00:53,210
use of the limited plutonium that we have currently in the United States.

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00:00:53,210 --> 00:00:55,300
I'm Chinese and I was born in Hong Kong.

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00:00:55,300 --> 00:00:58,900
I came over to the United States when I was
about three years old, and I've been living

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00:00:58,900 --> 00:01:05,449
in Cleveland ever since, and I really enjoy
my hometown and I've been here my entire life.

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00:01:05,449 --> 00:01:11,090
I went to college in Cleveland at Case Western
Reserve University, and when I was a junior

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00:01:11,090 --> 00:01:16,740
I sought out an internship position, and I
was fortunate enough to come to NASA Glenn

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00:01:16,740 --> 00:01:17,890
and spent the summer here.

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00:01:17,890 --> 00:01:23,829
And when I was here, I saw the wonderful work
the Center did and the variety of technologies

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00:01:23,829 --> 00:01:29,150
that NASA was responsible for and I wanted
to make a career out of it, and it was at

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00:01:29,150 --> 00:01:32,579
that point, I decided to come to NASA.

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00:01:32,579 --> 00:01:36,940
I was honored recently to be the recipient
of the 2013 Asian American Engineer of the

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00:01:36,940 --> 00:01:38,640
Year Award.

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00:01:38,640 --> 00:01:43,049

This was a national award that was provided
by the Chinese Institute of Engineers.

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00:01:43,049 --> 00:01:47,389
I was nominated through my management and
went through a selection process and ultimately

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00:01:47,389 --> 00:01:53,439
got this award for the work and contributions
that I've done in terms of my NASA work on

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00:01:53,439 --> 00:01:55,680
the advanced sterling converter.

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00:01:55,680 --> 00:02:02,399
While I'm proud of the award, I'm really glad
I was able to be part of this award and ceremony

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00:02:02,399 --> 00:02:07,259
because it put a national spotlight on the
contributions of Asian Americans within the

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00:02:07,259 --> 00:02:09,479
realm of science and technology.

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00:02:09,479 --> 00:02:13,470
To celebrate Asian Pacific Islander Heritage
month, for the last several years, I've been

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00:02:13,470 --> 00:02:17,820
with the organization that puts on the Cleveland
Asian Festival.

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00:02:17,820 --> 00:02:22,170
Last year, we had over 42,000 attendees at
this event, and this year we're expecting

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00:02:22,170 --> 00:02:24,000
it to be even larger.

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00:02:24,000 --> 00:02:29,860
I'm really proud of being part of this event
because it brings together my hometown Cleveland.

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00:02:29,860 --> 00:02:35,920
It brings together my Asian heritage, and
I am the emcee of the event, and I can talk

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00:02:35,920 --> 00:02:41,980
about how wonderful this event is to all 42,000
people.

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00:02:41,980 --> 00:02:45,030
I would say the most important thing for a
young person that's trying to make decisions

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00:02:45,030 --> 00:02:47,400
about careers is exposure.

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00:02:47,400 --> 00:02:52,579
Seek out every opportunity, whether that's
co-oping, internship, shadowing assignments.

39
00:02:52,579 --> 00:02:57,409
Visit workplaces of friends and relatives
just to see what real jobs are like and what