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00:00:11,280 --> 00:00:12,639  
My name is Amy Stalker.

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00:00:12,639 --> 00:00:17,250  
I'm a mechanical engineer in the structural  
mechanics branch at NASA Glenn Research Center

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00:00:17,250 --> 00:00:18,650  
in Cleveland, Ohio.

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00:00:18,650 --> 00:00:21,500  
I'm currently supporting two projects.

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00:00:21,500 --> 00:00:26,450  
On one, I'm performing a finite element analysis  
on a non-contacting finger seal.

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00:00:26,450 --> 00:00:31,830  
The goal is to optimize the design to reduce  
leakage across the seal—ultimately leading

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00:00:31,830 --> 00:00:36,800  
to an increased efficiency in gas turbine  
engines for airplanes.

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00:00:36,800 --> 00:00:42,470  
I'm also supporting the advanced modular power  
system 28-volt battery being developed for

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00:00:42,470 --> 00:00:48,280  
the astronaut EVA suit portable life support  
system, and I'm performing a thermal analysis

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00:00:48,280 --> 00:00:53,760  
on the battery housing and assembly, and also  
contributing to the design of the battery

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00:00:53,760 --> 00:00:55,030  
assembly.

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00:00:55,030 --> 00:01:00,989

The benefits I've experienced in working in an environment that celebrates diversity is

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00:01:00,989 --> 00:01:10,060

that because of our diversity of our backgrounds, our cultures, educations, ages; we are able

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00:01:10,060 --> 00:01:15,729

to come up with more creative solutions to our challenges at NASA, and I feel like I

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00:01:15,729 --> 00:01:20,920

learn something new all the time when I talk to people and work with people from all different

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00:01:20,920 --> 00:01:22,110

backgrounds.

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00:01:22,110 --> 00:01:28,340

LGBT pride month is important to recognize because of the struggles that the LGBT community

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00:01:28,340 --> 00:01:35,740

has undergone to achieve equality and to celebrate how far our society has come, but also how

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00:01:35,740 --> 00:01:38,409

far we still have to go.

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00:01:38,409 --> 00:01:45,280

And that's why there's a group at Glenn right now—an effort underway to develop an advisory

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00:01:45,280 --> 00:01:51,009

group—an LGBT and allies advisory group, so that we can better understand the concerns

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00:01:51,009 --> 00:01:54,700

of some of our co-workers and work toward overcoming those.

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00:01:54,700 --> 00:01:59,530

It's personally an important issue to me because of a friend—a family friend that I've known

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00:01:59,530 --> 00:02:04,409

my whole life who was gay, and he was a science teacher.

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00:02:04,409 --> 00:02:09,820

He inspired me to learn more about science and is what ultimately lead me to pursue a

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00:02:09,820 --> 00:02:11,190

career at NASA.

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00:02:11,190 --> 00:02:15,320

So we owe it to our gay and lesbian friends to stand up for them.

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00:02:15,320 --> 00:02:23,290

I'm hoping that in recognition of LGBT pride month, I can inspire people to speak out on