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00:00:13,059 --> 00:00:18,560

I've had the luxury of working on four fantastic teams that allowed me to be a test conductor

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00:00:18,560 --> 00:00:21,610

on four test programs.

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00:00:21,610 --> 00:00:26,070

First test program I worked on was the SSME, Space Shuttle Main Engine, which was the primary

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00:00:26,070 --> 00:00:27,910

propulsion system for it.

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00:00:27,910 --> 00:00:34,510

After that I transitioned to the RS-68 Test Program, which, you know, was the propulsion

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00:00:34,510 --> 00:00:36,830

system for Delta IV.

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00:00:36,830 --> 00:00:43,620

After I began my NASA career, my first assignment was to the I-P-D, Integrated Powerhead Demonstrator

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00:00:43,620 --> 00:00:49,309

Program, which was a technology demonstration program with NASA and some corporate entities

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00:00:49,309 --> 00:00:54,440

to demonstrate that we could develop and actually implement a new engine operation cycle.

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00:00:54,440 --> 00:00:56,540

That had never been done here before.

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00:00:56,540 --> 00:01:02,690

And, from there I transitioned from... from that to the AJ26 Program which was the propulsion

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00:01:02,690 --> 00:01:06,040
system for Antares for Orbital Sciences.

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00:01:06,040 --> 00:01:10,240
And, along the way I've gotten the chance
to work with a lot of great people and learn

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00:01:10,240 --> 00:01:14,200
a lot of things from a lot of great people...
watch some people develop into things they

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00:01:14,200 --> 00:01:16,840
maybe never thought they'd ever be able to
do.

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00:01:16,840 --> 00:01:18,939
So, I've got a pretty good job.

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00:01:18,939 --> 00:01:24,220
When you look at African-Americans you look
at a group of people that have overcome major

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00:01:24,220 --> 00:01:29,189
odds and major obstacles and kept moving forward.

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00:01:29,189 --> 00:01:35,180
And, they've never stopped, no matter what
the obstacle was to get us where we need to

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00:01:35,180 --> 00:01:36,180
be.

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00:01:36,180 --> 00:01:42,030
So, when I look back, and when I face some
small obstacles on a daily basis, you know,

22
00:01:42,030 --> 00:01:47,670
they may seem insurmountable, but in reality

compared to where we've already come from,

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00:01:47,670 --> 00:01:50,210

they're nothing.

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00:01:50,210 --> 00:01:54,780

My advice for any African-American youth was,
once you decide you want to work for NASA,

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00:01:54,780 --> 00:01:57,770

or you want to be an engineer or you want
to be a doctor, whatever it is you want to

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00:01:57,770 --> 00:02:02,189

be, make that your primary focus and don't
give up on it.

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00:02:02,189 --> 00:02:07,509

You're going to hit obstacles along the way,
but don't give up on any of that.

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00:02:07,509 --> 00:02:12,260

Yep, make that your primary focus and do whatever
it takes to get there.

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00:02:12,260 --> 00:02:20,910

Working for NASA allows me to balance my family
life and my work life tremendously.

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00:02:20,910 --> 00:02:28,980

When I'm at work, and you face the tremendous
challenges that we do, and we get to overcome

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00:02:28,980 --> 00:02:31,340

them and work with a great group of people.