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00:00:08,690 --> 00:00:14,350

My name is Abigail Rodriguez, and I am an aerospace technologist in structural materials

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at NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland Ohio.

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As an employee of the Quality Engineering and Assurance Branch, I support several projects

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in making sure that they comply with NASA's safety standards, that their materials are

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compatible with each other, I also help them in minimizing risks and reducing defects in

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00:00:35,470 --> 00:00:38,590

order to achieve mission success.

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Working in a research environment is both challenging and rewarding just because you

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have to have meetings and interact with people with different backgrounds.

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So you're constantly working with both engineers and scientists, and it's important to understand

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everyone—to come together—in order to achieve project success.

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We live and work in a melting pot.

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00:01:04,470 --> 00:01:07,380

Everywhere we go we see people with different backgrounds.

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00:01:07,380 --> 00:01:10,590

Diversity is part of our daily lives.

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I am really grateful to be working in a place that everybody's accepted as they are.

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I am an individual with three different cultures.

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00:01:20,080 --> 00:01:25,800

I celebrate it by sharing it with my co-workers: my culture, my traditions, and also baking

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00:01:25,800 --> 00:01:28,700

and cooking for them recipes that have been passed on for generations.

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00:01:28,700 --> 00:01:35,620

I was born in Queens, New York, and my mother moved to Puerto Rico when I was a year and

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00:01:35,620 --> 00:01:38,430

a half old.

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00:01:38,430 --> 00:01:41,690

She was a woman that led by example.

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Thanks to her, I learned the importance of love, care, and respect for one another.

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00:01:47,930 --> 00:01:50,420

And thanks to her, I also achieved my greatest dream, which was to become an engineer.

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00:01:50,420 --> 00:01:57,640

The Hispanic heritage month is a reminder that I am bilingual and that I can roll my

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00:01:57,640 --> 00:01:58,640

“Rs.”

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00:01:58,640 --> 00:02:05,720

As a Puerto-Rican, it’s a reminder that the brave spirit of the Spaniards, the courage

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00:02:05,720 --> 00:02:09,770

of the Tejanos, and the strength of the Africans run through my veins.

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If I had to give advice to a future NASA candidate, I would say never take no for an answer.