



ASTRONAUT

**JESSICA  
WATKINS**



1  
00:00:12,679 --> 00:00:16,549  
A dream feels like a big, far  
away goal.

2  
00:00:16,616 --> 00:00:20,186  
This is going to be difficult to  
achieve and something that you  
might achieve

3  
00:00:20,253 --> 00:00:24,858  
much later in life. But in  
reality, what a dream is,

4  
00:00:24,924 --> 00:00:26,393  
or a dream realized is,

5  
00:00:26,459 --> 00:00:29,863  
is just putting one foot in  
front of the other on a daily  
basis.

6  
00:00:30,430 --> 00:00:32,832  
And if you put enough of  
those footprints together,

7  
00:00:33,032 --> 00:00:34,834  
eventually they become a path  
towards.

8  
00:00:34,901 --> 00:00:35,735  
Your dreams.

9  
00:00:37,170 --> 00:00:41,908  
My name is Jessica Watkins and  
my fellow astronauts would  
describe me

10  
00:00:41,975 --> 00:00:45,145  
as a rock nerd, endearingly,  
I, as what I tell myself,

11

00:00:45,211 --> 00:00:49,783

at least. One of the things that I enjoy the most about geology intellectually is

12

00:00:50,016 --> 00:00:53,787

you can function as a detective. You're looking at different puzzle pieces,

13

00:00:53,853 --> 00:00:55,889

you know, all kinds of in different places. And you're,

14

00:00:55,955 --> 00:00:59,225

you're trying to bring those puzzle pieces together to get a full story,

15

00:00:59,292 --> 00:01:03,630

a full history of what has happened in a particular place. For me,

16

00:01:03,696 --> 00:01:06,399

as somebody who was really interested in the planets,

17

00:01:06,466 --> 00:01:11,337

geology provided a means for me to study the surface of another planet and

18

00:01:11,404 --> 00:01:12,572

particularly look at Mars,

19

00:01:12,639 --> 00:01:17,143

which was my passion, was just super exciting to me in

20

00:01:17,210 --> 00:01:21,514

college, I was lucky enough to get the opportunity to learn to play rugby.

21

00:01:23,683 --> 00:01:27,120

It was one of the best opportunities in my life getting to play with the rugby

22

00:01:27,187 --> 00:01:31,858

team at Stanford and play in national championships, and even win one.

23

00:01:32,926 --> 00:01:36,729

I think one of the biggest lessons that I take away from my rugby career is the

24

00:01:36,796 --> 00:01:37,897

importance of teamwork.

25

00:01:38,198 --> 00:01:43,136

Rugby in particular has positions that are all suited to different types

26

00:01:43,203 --> 00:01:46,840

of body types, different strengths that people bring to the table.

27

00:01:47,073 --> 00:01:49,909

And I think that is not unlike our team here at NASA,

28

00:01:49,976 --> 00:01:52,579

where everybody comes and brings their different strengths,

29

00:01:52,645 --> 00:01:54,747

their different expertise to  
form a

30

00:01:54,814 --> 00:02:00,753

powerful and winning team.

31

00:02:00,820 --> 00:02:03,456

This endeavor to go to the  
moon is going to be hard,

32

00:02:03,690 --> 00:02:06,059

is not something that  
we can do individually.

33

00:02:06,125 --> 00:02:08,428

It's not something that  
we can do on our own.

34

00:02:08,495 --> 00:02:10,563

And I think especially in these  
times,

35

00:02:10,630 --> 00:02:14,400

it's really important for us to  
recognize how much we need each  
other and the

36

00:02:14,467 --> 00:02:17,036

importance of coming  
together for one goal.

37

00:02:17,103 --> 00:02:19,105

And I think that going back to  
the moon really embodies that.

38

00:02:20,440 --> 00:02:21,875

<i>This is mission control </i>Houston.