



ELLEN OCHOA

ASTRONAUT

During Ochoa's childhood, the space program was in its infancy, so Ochoa did not aspire to go to space; that changed in 1983 when Sally Ride (the first woman in space) was chosen as a crew member for the Space Shuttle Challenger. When Ochoa went to college, discovered a love of physics, math, and engineering. In 1985, Ochoa applied for NASA's highly competitive astronaut Training Program but was rejected. She applied again in 1987, and finally won acceptance in 1990, leading her to become the first Latina woman to travel into space. She is currently the director of NASA's Johnson Space Center.

