



South's BEST 2015

Proudly Presents

Dr. Helen V. McConnaughey

Manager, Spacecraft and Vehicle Systems,
Engineering Directorate,
NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, retired

Keynote Speaker at the Women in Science and Engineering Luncheon

Saturday, December 5th

12:00–1:30 p.m. Student Center Ballroom (3rd Floor)

Dr. Helen McConnaughey recently retired from **NASA Marshall Space Flight Center** in Huntsville, Alabama, where she served for 30 years in a variety of engineering positions. In her most recent position, **she led the Spacecraft and Vehicle Systems Department**, an organization of approximately 450 civil service and support contractor personnel **engaged in launch vehicle and spacecraft engineering disciplines**, including systems engineering and integration; structural design and analysis; loads & dynamics; aerosciences; thermal design, analysis and control; modeling and simulation; guidance, navigation, and control; and terrestrial & space environments. The majority of the department's engineering efforts are focused on the new Space Launch System, which will be the most **powerful rocket system** ever launched and is planned to first launch in 2018. Additionally, the department provides **engineering support to the International Space Station**, the Commercial Crew program, and to a variety of other flight projects. Prior to leading Spacecraft and Vehicle Systems, Dr. McConnaughey led the **Propulsion Systems Engineering and Integration Office** for 8 years where she managed the organization's civil service and contractor employees who performed **systems engineering, analysis, and integration of the Space Shuttle propulsion elements** within the larger Space Shuttle system. She served in this capacity from the beginning of the post-Columbia accident return-to-flight period in 2003 through the end of the Space Shuttle Program in 2011. Prior to 2003, she led a number of engineering organizations related to **vehicle systems and subsystems, propulsion systems and components, and propulsion testing**. Prior to assuming formal leadership roles, Dr. McConnaughey worked as a NASA engineer performing **computational fluid dynamics**.



Before joining NASA in 1985, Dr. McConnaughey was an Assistant Professor at Mississippi State University for two years and a post-doctoral research fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for one year. She earned her masters and doctorate degrees from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York and her bachelors degree from Occidental College in Los Angeles, California.



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