

AIAA Greater Huntsville Section August Lecture with Dr. Kimberly Robinson

By Tracie Prater

After a hiatus of several months due to the pandemic, the AIAA Greater Huntsville Section (GHS) rebooted its monthly professional lecture series in August with an event at InnerSpace Brewery on August 19th. The event, which commemorated Women's Equality Day, featured Dr. Kimberly Robinson, CEO of the US Space and Rocket Center (USSRC) in Huntsville. Prior to this role, Dr. Robinson spent more than three decades at NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, where she was most recently the Utilization Manager for Advanced Exploration Systems at NASA Headquarters for the Artemis program. She also served at NASA Marshall as the Payload Mission Manager, Strategic Communications Manager, and Deputy Program Integration Manager for the Space Launch System rocket and Ares I-X test flights. Dr. Robinson was also a Crew Trainer who prepared astronauts for science missions aboard the Space Shuttle. She has a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Vanderbilt University, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Industrial and Systems Engineering from the University of Alabama Huntsville.

In the hour-long talk, Dr. Robinson spoke about her career at NASA and upcoming initiatives and programs at USSRC. USSRC operates Space Camp and Aviation Challenge and has recently introduced Cyber Camps for elementary, middle, and high school students. USSRC continues to host community events, such as launch parties (a recent event celebrated Blue Origin's first crewed flight of New Shepherd) and STEM outreach activities. USSRC will also feature exciting new artifacts and exhibits in the coming year, including Blue Origin's Mannequin Skywalker, a Space Shuttle 40th anniversary exhibit, a Space Launch System pathfinder test article, and a traveling exhibit showcasing the science of Guinness World Records. Additionally, the campus will break ground this fall on a new space camp operations building.



Dr. Kimberly Robinson at the AIAA GHS Women's Equality Day event (Photo courtesy of Stewart Money, InnerSpace Brewery)

The next AIAA GHS professional lecture in September will be virtual and feature Ginger Barnes, a former Boeing program manager who is currently on the Challenger Learning Center Board of Directors.