

AIAA Greater Huntsville Section September Lecture with Ginger Barnes

By Tracie Prater



The AIAA Greater Huntsville section was honored to have Virginia (Ginger) Barnes speak at one of our fall professional lectures on September 21st. Ginger Barnes retired from The Boeing Company as Vice President of the Space Launch System (SLS) program. Her 34 year career included financial, technical, programmatic, and personnel leadership roles across a broad portfolio of military and civil space programs. Prior to leading the SLS program, Barnes served as President and CEO of United Space Alliance LLC (USA), leading the company through the retirement of the NASA Space Shuttle Program. During her earlier tenure with Boeing, Barnes led a number of defense and space programs, including International Space Station, fighter and support programs, defense modernization and weapons, and simulation and training. Augmenting her corporate commitments, Barnes participates in community efforts, especially in education. She has served on a number of not-for-profit boards including the St. Louis Arts & Education Board, the St. Louis University Executive Advisory Board, the Maryville University Board of Trustees, the Challenger Center Board, and the Industry Advisory Board of The University of Alabama College of Engineering. She has a degree in accounting from The University of Alabama in Huntsville. She later earned her master's degree in business from Vanderbilt's Owen Graduate School of Management. Barnes is a commercial pilot and instructor, and has served as an FAA-designated examiner for hot-air balloons.

In this hour long talk, Ginger Barnes shared her career experiences, perspectives on leadership, and philanthropic work. The section looks forward to continuing our professional lecture series throughout the fall.