

Nancy J. Currie-Gregg, Ph.D.

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Nancy Currie-Gregg serves as the Texas A&M University Space Institute Director where she is responsible for leading, servicing and support of an evolving space economy, providing Texas with strategic planning and research accomplishments, workforce development and training, and a holistic approach to broadening statewide engagement and promoting growth in all sectors related to the Texas space economy. Holder of the Don Lummus '58 Professorship of Practice in Engineering, with appointments in the departments of Industrial and Systems Engineering and Aerospace Engineering, she develops and teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in aerospace human factors engineering; quantitative risk analysis and reliability engineering; system safety engineering; and resilient systems engineering. Her research interests include spacecraft occupant protection, human-robot interaction, and the optimization of human performance and safety in engineered systems.

Prior to joining Texas A&M University in the fall of 2017, Dr. Currie-Gregg spent the vast portion of her career supporting NASA's human spaceflight programs and projects. Selected as an astronaut in 1990, she accrued 1000 hours in space as a mission specialist on four space shuttle missions— STS-57 in 1993; STS-70 in 1995; STS-88, the first International Space Station assembly mission, in 1998; and STS-109, the fourth Hubble Space Telescope servicing mission, in 2002. A retired U.S. Army Colonel and Master Army Aviator, she logged over 4,000 flying hours in a variety of rotarywing and fixed-wing aircraft. Following the Space Shuttle Columbia tragedy in 2002, she led the Space Shuttle Program Safety and Mission Assurance Office directing safety, reliability, and quality assurance efforts enabling the safe return to flight of the Space Shuttle in 2005. She was then selected as a senior executive member of the NASA Engineering and Safety Center, serving for over a decade as the Chief Engineer at the Johnson Space Center, then as Principal Engineer.

Dr. Currie-Gregg received her bachelor's degree in biological sciences from The Ohio State University, a master of science in safety engineering from the University of Southern California, and a doctorate in industrial engineering from the University of Houston. Among her many awards and honors are the U.S. Government Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Senior Professional; NASA's Exceptional Service, Distinguished Service, Outstanding Leadership, and four Spaceflight Medals; the Defense Superior Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Legion of Merit, and Defense Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster. She is a member of the Army Aviation Hall of Fame, Women in Aviation International Hall of Fame, Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame, Ohio Veteran's Hall of Fame, and a recipient of the distinguished alumni award from The Ohio State University and the University of Houston's College of Engineering.