DR. JAN DAVIS

Dr. Jan Davis is a retired aerospace professional with experience as an astronaut, engineer, and senior manager. She is an Alabama resident and is very active in supporting community functions.

Dr. Davis has Bachelor of Science degrees from the Georgia Institute of Technology (1975) and Auburn University (1977) in biomedical engineering and mechanical engineering, respectively. She did her graduate research work in mechanical engineering at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, earning a master's degree (1983) and doctoral degree (1985).

Dr. Davis began her National and Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) career at the Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) in 1979 as an aerospace engineer. After supporting major NASA programs and projects, including the Hubble Space Telescope and the Chandra X-ray Observatory, she became a team lead and lead engineer for the redesign of the Space Shuttle Solid Rocket Booster External Tank attach ring.

In 1987, Dr. Davis was selected to join the Astronaut corps at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. She spent more than 670 hours in space as a mission specialist over the course of her three Space Shuttle flights: STS-47 (1992), STS-60 (1994), and STS-85 (1997). During these flights, she orbited the Earth 445 times. In 1998, she became the Director of the Human Exploration and Development of Space Independent Assurance Office for NASA Headquarters. Dr. Davis returned to MSFC and served as the Director of the Flight Projects Directorate at the Marshall Center until August 2003. Prior to retiring from NASA in 2005, Dr. Davis was the Director of Safety and Mission Assurance at MSFC leading up to the successful Return to Flight of the Space Shuttle in 2005. After her retirement from NASA, she was an executive with NASA contracts at MSFC with Jacobs for eleven years and with Bastion Technologies.

She was elected to the Alabama Aviation Hall of Fame and the Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame. In 2002, she was given the Presidential Rank of Meritorious Executive, and she has received NASA's Exceptional Service Medal, Space Medal, and Outstanding Leadership Medal. Auburn University named her as a Distinguished Engineer in 2017.