



NEWS RELEASE • FEBRUARY 9, 2021

NASA Celebrates Black History Month with Lessons from African American Leaders

The Power of African American Leadership in NASA | Media Advisory M21-017



Clayton Turner, left; Vanessa Wyche; Glenn Delgado; Woodrow Whitlow; Brenda Manuel; and Hildreth (Hal) Walker Jr., right, participated in the panel discussion “The Power of African American Leadership in NASA,” as part of NASA’s Black History Month celebration. Credits: NASA

The Event

As part of its celebration of Black History Month, NASA hosted a virtual discussion at 12 p.m. EST Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2021, featuring a panel of current and past agency leaders. The prerecorded event aired on NASA Television and the agency’s website, as well as via Facebook, YouTube, Twitter (now X), and the NASA App.

Spanning missions from Apollo to Artemis, “The Power of African American Leadership in NASA” looked at how African Americans in leadership roles have influenced change and helped drive mission success through lessons learned and discussions shared by current and past NASA leaders. The panel discussion was moderated by NASA Associate Administrator for Small Business Programs Glenn Delgado.

Panel Participants

Titles below reflect each leader's role as listed in NASA's February 9, 2021 media advisory.

Glenn Delgado	Moderator · NASA Associate Administrator for Small Business Programs
Brenda Manuel	Retired NASA Associate Administrator for Diversity and Equal Opportunity
Clayton Turner	Center Director, NASA's Langley Research Center
Hildreth (Hal) Walker Jr.	NASA "Hidden Figure" who led the manufacturing, testing, and operation of the KORAD K-1500 ruby laser system for the lunar laser ranging experiment as part of the Apollo 11 Moon landing
Woodrow Whitlow	Retired NASA Associate Administrator for Mission Support
Vanessa Wyche	Deputy Center Director, NASA's Johnson Space Center

Sponsors

The event was sponsored by the Black Employee Strategy Team at NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia; the African American Employee Resource Group at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston; the NASA Headquarters Chapter of Blacks In Government; and the NASA Headquarters African-American Coalition for Advocacy and Leadership.

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Watch and Source

Original NASA news release:

<https://www.nasa.gov/news-release/nasa-celebrates-black-history-month-with-lessons-from-african-american-leaders/>

Panel video on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/iqRRWse9DaY>

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