



Dr. Deborah E. Barnhart

Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director

Dr. Barnhart became the Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in December 2010. The Center is the official Visitor Center for NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, the showcase for Redstone Arsenal and defense programs, an Official Visitor Center for the Tennessee Valley Authority, and a Smithsonian Affiliate. Home to the world renowned U.S. Space Camp®, U.S. Space Academy®, Aviation Challenge®, and Robotics Camp, the Center is Alabama's leading tourist attraction. Leading technology initiatives in aerospace and defense are showcased along with international space artifacts including the world's only complete full-scale Space Shuttle stack and the National Historic Landmark Apollo Saturn V moon rocket.

Dr. Barnhart's career spans four decades of service in commercial industry, government, aerospace and defense. A retired Navy Captain (O-6), she was one of the first ten women assigned to duty aboard ships and commanded five units in her 26 year career.

She was Vice President of three Dow 30 aerospace and defense companies, serving in manufacturing, business development, program and research management, and congressional lobbying for Honeywell International, McDonnell Douglas (now Boeing), and United Technologies Aerospace.

Dr. Barnhart is a recipient of NASA's Distinguished Public Service Medal, the highest form of recognition awarded by NASA to a non-government individual. In 2015, Honeywell Hometown Solutions awarded Dr. Barnhart with the Hometown Heroes award for her dedication to inspiration and education through the Space Camp and Space Academy for Educators programs. In 2016, AL.com selected Dr. Barnhart as one of the 40 women who are shaping the State of Alabama. She is a member of the Smithsonian Affiliations Advisory Council and a Trustee on the Board of the University of Alabama in Huntsville Foundation.

Dr. Barnhart earned her doctorate at Vanderbilt University, holds degrees from the University of Maryland, the University of Alabama Huntsville, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology where she was a Sloan Fellow.



One Tranquility Base • Huntsville, AL 35805-3399
Telephone: 256-837-3400 • FAX: 256-890-3371